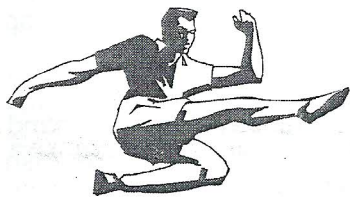


Andy



FRY CLUB COLTS

U14 MATCH REPORT U15

Number 21

EASTER SPECIAL - WARMWELL TOUR

18th April 2001

TOUR REPORT

With 84 adults and children of various ages setting off on a five day break, there are various tales that could be told. To those parents who entrusted their offspring to the care of Dave and Kerry, I would like to say that their behaviour was exemplary, as was that of most of the boys.

On the football front, we won both games and they were played in good spirit.

On the fishing front, Glen finally caught a carp, and Rich re-affirmed the Olympian spirit that it's the taking part that counts.

The tour was marred by a final evening fracas that saw Conan and Zolly the losers in an unofficial midnight kickboxing contest, the intervention of the camp security staff, and the involvement of the police. Various claims, counter-claims and allegations exist as to what happened, but the possibility of further action precludes my comment.

Commiserations to Glen, whose car broke down as he was leaving, and ended up having to be towed home. I ended up driving back down to Warmwell the next day to collect the bag of dirty washing we'd left behind, only to find all the best clothes had been skanked. Complaint still pending! Anyway, a big 'thank you' to Kerry and Dave Gooding for their efforts in organising everything.

TOUR REPORT TOUR REPORT
DORCHESTER COSMOS
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FRY CLUB COLTS
TOUR REPORT TOUR REPORT

Jack Gooding and Jamie Bryant had returned to Bristol to aid Bitton beat Whitchurch 3-2, by way of an extra-time golden goal, to win the U15 League Cup. Guest players Jason Pitman and Kevin Curtis were engaged in securing a league win for Bamfield, so the remaining players were all guaranteed a place in the starting line-up that had a decidedly Fry's U14 team look to it:

Greg Tucker

Tom Hamblin Joe Garland Phil Knight

Gareth Smith Mark Webb Dan Payne Jay Slade

Zolly Vanyai Ross Ashman Jon Pitt

Dorchester were handicapped in that their regular 'keeper had a broken finger and was playing at centre-forward. Holidays also meant that they were unable to field their strongest team and they too only had the bare 11 players. They were further disadvantaged by the fact that Steve Payne and Jeff Garland, aided by Andy Glover were in charge. Now that's what you call a heavyweight management team!

The early pressure came from us with a corner gained, but cleared by the Dorchester defence. However after three minutes Joe, clearly with his mind on the coming cricket season, inexplicably tried to catch the ball in the penalty area. Blatant!

The penalty was hammered home, low in to the corner (0-1).

We were back on even terms five minutes later. Zolly went on one of those infuriating runs when he tries to beat five or six players before losing the ball, when he should have passed. This time he elected to only beat four before trying to set up Jon. Although the ball was behind Jon it ran straight to **Jay** who crashed it home (1-1).

With ten minutes gone a long throw from Tom, and a head-on from Zolly allowed Jon to hare down the wing before sending in a cross to the foot of **Ross** who stroked the ball home with all the finesse of a born striker (2-1).

Two minutes later and a good move down the right – Gareth to Dan to Zolly ended with Ross attempting to hook the ball home and the 'keeper pushing the ball round the post. Tom just failed to get his head on Ross' corner kick but we gained another corner. Jay swung this one in and although Phil got the flick-on the ball didn't fall to a red shirt but was only half cleared. Mark tried a shot but his effort was wide.

Another corner on the right saw the ball returned to Ross who drove the ball in hard and low. Tom saw the ball late and couldn't get any power in his prod at goal.

We were clearly on top at this stage and another good crossfield move involving Dan, Tom and Gareth saw Ross unable to connect cleanly with a good cross in from Gareth. With just under twenty minutes gone **Zolly** latched on to a through ball, juggled it over the head of a defender, and ran round him before crashing the ball past the 'keeper (3-1).

A Dorchester player limped off with an injury, so we brought Zolly off to even things up. A good break from Dorchester and cross in ended with a strong shot that was fortunately hit straight at Greg and he was able to smother the ball.

Ten minutes to half time and Ross was in overdrive down the right wing, caught and controlled the ball, and crossed superbly only for Jon to roll the ball wide from a couple of yards. A minute later and Jon sped on to a through ball from Dan and drill the ball past the 'keeper – but just the wrong side of the post. Another throw-in from Tom, pass down the wing by Ross and cross in from Zolly saw Jon turn the ball back for Ross whose curling shot was deflected just wide of the post.

Meanwhile the Dorchester manager's phone calls had met with success and a 'keeper arrived so that both teams were now at full strength.

With half time approaching **Jay** was on hand when a cross in dropped nicely for him to crash home another shot to make it 4-1.

HALF TIME: COSMOS 1 COLTS 4

Three minutes in to the half and an incisive through ball between Joe and Phil saw a cross drilled in and the ball bundled under Greg to reduce the deficit for Dorchester (2-4).

The goal lifted Dorchester and two minutes later they were queuing up to score as our defence was suddenly at sixes and sevens. Greg did well to spread himself and save at the expense of a corner.

We responded with Jon setting up Zolly whose firmly struck shot was parried by the 'keeper, and collected at the second attempt. Zolly then was clean through on goal but elected to roll the ball wide of the 'keeper, and the post.

With ten minutes gone **Gareth** won the ball in our half, passed inside to Zolly and made ground down the flank, collected the return pass and cracked the ball home from just inside the edge of the area (5-2).

Zolly then had another shot wide and Jon one over the bar before a good crossfield ball from Zolly and a shot from Ross was on target, but deflected for another corner.

Twenty minutes gone and Dan jinked his way through on the edge of the area, lost the ball but it was deflected to Ross who played it out for Zolly to dink the ball back in and **Dan** headed firmly home (6-2).

Straight from the kick-off and Dorchester attacked down our left flank. Phil stood up but missed his tackle. Joe slid in and missed his tackle. The ball was played back and we were fortunate that the curl on the shot just took it against the post and for Tom to hack the rebound away. Mark limped off with five minutes to go, as the game drew to the close with no further chances created by either team.

FULL TIME: COSMOS 2 COLTS 6

Afterthoughts.....

Although neither team was at full strength, there was some excellent passing football from both sides, and the game was played in good spirit - Mark even gave one of their players a hand up after yet another crunching tackle. There were some good performances throughout the team. Gareth on the right and Ross up front were just shaded for the 'Man of the Match' award by **Zolly**.

<p style="text-align:center">TOUR REPORT TOUR REPORT WEYMOUTH COUGARS V FRY CLUB COLTS TOUR REPORT TOUR REPORT</p>

This was the grudge match - allegedly. We had lost 4-2 on tour in 1999, and the referee had to call both teams together for a half-time talk to cool things down. Jason Pitman was recalled to the team. He had a mixed match last time - had been our only scorer (the other being an own goal) - and had also been "sin-binned" as well. Kevin Curtis was guesting for us, to "beef up" the defence, so we started the game:

Greg Tucker

Tom Hamblin Kevin Curtis Phil Knight

Jack Gooding Mark Webb Dan Payne
Jamie Bryant Zolly Vanyai
Jason Pitman Jon Pitt

Substitutes: Ross Ashman, Joe Garland, Jay Slade.

It's surprising the changes that two years make, but the Cougars were not at full strength and some of their players were on the small side - not even Phil's size let alone Kevin's. Still, they were lying third in their league, so were clearly no mugs.

A couple of good early breaks by Jon and Jason were foiled by defenders before we gained a corner that Tom headed narrowly wide.

Ten minutes gone and good work by Jon saw him win the ball and feed Jamie on the right. His cross in was met by Jason who hit his shot wide - a cue for hoots of derision aimed at Rich, and cries of "Now you know why we gave him a free transfer!" A minute later and a through ball from Dan saw Jason let the ball run (dummy or just poor control?) to **Zolly** on the left. He made ground down the left, cut in to the area and rounded the 'keeper before sliding the ball home (1-0).

A good turn by Jason on the penalty spot saw him shoot narrowly wide before a good through ball from Jack saw Jason, at full stretch, toe-end the ball over the bar - to more rapturous laughter, and cries from Rich that he was saving himself for Saturday!

With both teams having three substitutes, rolling substitutions were the order of the day and Jay came on to motor down the left and cross for Zolly to head back past the 'keeper, but just over the bar.

Then, as Cougars attacked, the ball ran out of play. Phil's throw to Kevin was laid back for him to play the ball down the line for Jason to knock the ball over the top of the defence and **Jon** ran on to slide the ball low past the 'keeper (2-0).

Twenty minutes gone and Greg was forced to come out of his area to clear. Mark chested the clearance back to Kevin and his ball forward was latched on to by **Jason**, who hit a wicked swerving dipping shot in to the top corner (3-0). Understandably, this necessitated the comment that he'd learned how to play like that while he was at Fry's!

Another good cross in from the left found Jamie unmarked at the far post but a poor first touch saw the ball run away from him and be cleared for a corner. Jay swung the cross in for Kevin to rise but head straight at the 'keeper.

Then Jon made a good run down the left and his cross was trapped and laid back for Jamie to strike, but off target. With half time approaching Jon's perseverance gained him the ball inside the area and he cracked a shot against the post. **Jamie** struck home the rebound despite the effort of a defender on the line to clear (4-0).

HALF TIME: COUGARS 0 COLTS 4

We kicked off and straight away gained a corner. Jay struck it hard and low to the near post where the 'keeper did well to smother it. Two minutes in to the half and **Jon** capitalised on a through ball from Jason to knock the ball wide of the advancing 'keeper (5-0).

Cougars broke back and Mark found himself exposed at the back. He managed to get in a tackle, injuring himself in the process, but the ball broke for their forward to run free in to the area. The final shot was disappointing from Cougars' view, passing harmlessly wide of the far post.

Another good break down the left from Jay ended with a low drive wide of the far post and was followed by Jason weaving his way past several opponents before driving the ball home. Unfortunately, Jon had run across the last defender in to an offside position and was adjudged to have been interfering with play.

A cunningly disguised through ball from Phil saw the ball bounce awkwardly for the defender and get through to Jay who blasted wide.

Ten minutes gone and we wrapped the game up when **Jon** controlled a poor goal kick, wrong-footed the defence with his turn and slammed the ball home (6-0).

A flowing move down the right involving Joe, Jamie and Zolly finished with Jason blasting over. A shot from Jack was tipped on to the bar by the 'keeper, rebounded off him and on to the post, and then grabbed by him.

As we attacked in numbers the ball was laid back for Kevin, now in midfield, to crack a good shot that bounced awkwardly in front of the 'keeper, who managed to block it.

The game now started to deteriorate in terms of quality if not entertainment as players swapped positions. Zolly and Greg were caught out as they tried to swap shirts and neither seemed to know who was the 'keeper as Cougars rifled a shot home (6-1).

Kevin had now moved up front along with Phil, Ross, Jason and Joe was on the right wing, as we adopted a five-man attack – shades of my tactics. Meanwhile Jon now found himself at left back with Dan and Greg alongside him in the centre of defence. Kevin had another good header from Jay's corner held just under the bar by the 'keeper.

Cougars attacked and their forward evaded Greg's attempt at a rugby tackle to win a corner. The corner was met by a good downward header that Dan blocked. Kevin suggested to the referee that it was near enough to his hands to be a penalty, so it was. Zolly tried to fool the Cougars' penalty taker (their 'keeper) by standing still but this was a useless ploy as he hit the ball in the corner of the net rather than straight at the 'keeper (6-2).

FULL TIME: COUGARS 2 COLTS 6

Afterthoughts.....

A good entertaining game. We were too good for the Cougars but the game was played with an excellent spirit and with plenty of handshakes at the end of the game. Jason and Kevin appeared to enjoy their guest appearances and while it was difficult to chose a 'Man of the Match' with rolling substitutions and players out of position, Jon got tonight's fiver award.

U15MATCH REPORTU15MATCHREPORT HENGROVE BOYS V FRY CLUB COLTS U15MATCH REPORTU15MATCHREPORT

With Jon Pitt unavailable Dave paired Zolly and Jamie up front with Jack and Jay to supply the crosses, a hard tackling midfield, and pace at the back to try and counter the speed of Hengrove's attack:

Greg Tucker

Sam Jones Steve Bacon Joe Garland

Mark Webb Rich Healey Dan Payne
Jack Gooding Jay Slade
Jamie Bryant Zolly Vanyai

Substitutes: Ross Ashman, Tom Hamblin, Phil Knight.

We kicked off and although it was dry there was a strong crossfield wind that looked as if it would be troublesome, and proved to be. Defenders in both teams were to find it difficult to gauge the bounce, and passes with the wind zipped off the surface and out for numerous throw-ins.

Jack had the first shot at goal, a volley from 30 yards that he kept down well but hit straight at Matt Kernow, the Hengrove 'keeper. Hengrove responded with a Marcus Smith shot from the left edge of the penalty area that flew wide.

A moment of miss-control by Kevin Curtis saw him robbed by Rich who played a through ball for Jamie to run on to. Jamie and Matt got there at the same time, the ball bounced loose and Jamie – still scrambling to his feet – faced with an open goal lifted the ball on to the bar and over!

Ten minutes gone and Jay came off worse in a tackle with Kevin and came off for five minutes before being fit to continue. While he was off the pitch Jason Pitman wriggled clear of Mark in the

middle and rode a tackle on the edge of the penalty area before sliding the ball past Greg. It was a pity that Rich Pitman had blown the whistle for an indirect free kick on the edge of the area. The ball was rolled back for Kevin to blast a shot in to Dan, in the wall.

Hengrove won a corner on the left that was cleared long by Jack. Ben Garland was then the recipient of a crunching challenge from Mark that required treatment.

With twenty minutes gone Sam cleared the ball long for Jamie to play Zolly through. Again the 'keeper was out quickly to get to the ball first. Play was quickly transferred to the other end of the pitch where Marcus Duharty skipped over Steve's tackle. However, Greg got down well to block the ball, at the expense of a corner, Jason whipped the ball in, but it was wind-assisted and went straight out for a throw on the far side.

Two minutes later and a long through ball from Mark held up sufficiently for Jamie to again get to it at the same time as Matt. Again the ball bounced loose and this time **Jamie** managed to just prod it goalwards and the ball trickled over the line (1-0).

A free kick on the edge of our area was headed clear by Mark and Jamie almost capitalised on Steve's long clearance but John Durbin got a foot in to get the ball back to Matt.

Marcus Smith fouled Mark just inside the centre circle and Jack tried a shot for the top corner but didn't allow sufficiently for the wind and the ball flew harmlessly wide.

With half an hour gone Ben Garland sent in a corner from our right and with Greg hampered by a bit of shirt tugging that went unspotted by the referee, Kevin and **Marcus Duharty** combined to bundle the ball over the line, despite Rich's effort to hook the ball clear.

Another free kick against Mark, for elbowing, saw Ben Garland swing the ball in and Kevin beat the offside trap but glance his header wide. We retaliated with a low drive that Jamie did well to connect with as he was falling, but it flew just wide of the far post.

Mark was again penalised, this time for foot up, and Kevin drove the ball low in to the area where Ben Crew guided the ball wide, but Marcus Smith retrieved the ball and won a corner that was cleared.

Rich then went down injured as he and Dan both went to tackle the same player. It looked suspiciously like Dan did the damage.

HALF TIME: HENGROVE 1 COLTS 1

Hengrove kicked off and sent Marcus Smith away down our left flank. His rasping drive from a tight angle was only just over the bar.

A foul by Steve on Jason gave Hengrove a free kick, five yards outside the area. Kevin shaped to take the kick but ran over the ball, allowing Jason to try and bend it round the wall. Unfortunately lads you told us about that play on tour, and the ball was well held by Greg.

An interception by Kye Hendy and pass to Ben Garland saw him release Marcus Duharty for a low shot that Greg saved. Jack's through ball was then deflected in to the path of Jamie who tried to burst past John Durbin who forced him to the goal line and the cross went behind.

Five minutes in to the half and Andy Durbin brought on Ricardo to play wide on the right. Two minutes later and Dan fell to the ground holding his head following a challenge with Marcus Smith – hit on the nose by the ball – before going off for a rest. Jay played a good ball down the wing for Jamie, but Kye came across making a good tackle and putting the ball out for a throw. Dan came back on to the pitch and made a run towards the penalty area. Jay spotted the run and his long throw was met perfectly by **Dan** as he out-leaped Kevin and flashed a header from 10 yards past the surprised Matt (2-1). We could only surmise that Dan was still suffering from concussion and thought he was defending!

A good interception by Joe and through ball to Jay saw him find Jamie who nearly broke through, but again Kye made a timely interception.

Mark attempted to get on the end of a long throw from Jay but caught Matt as he too went for the ball and two minutes later Mark was the filling in the sandwich as two Hengrove players tackled him. Retribution?

A quarter of an hour gone and a good tackle from John Durbin saw the ball released quickly to Ben Crew. Greg came out to narrow the angle and the shot cannoned off the post for a goal kick.

Mark won the ball and released Jamie down the right, but nobody was up with him and he had to

turn back and play the ball in for Zolly who failed to control the ball.

Dan then threaded the ball through for Jamie to run at goal but Kye and John combined to pressure him and his shot was wide.

Dan again went down injured, this time with knee trouble, but again recovered after treatment. A quick break from Marcus Duharty down our left flank saw Greg out quickly and spread himself to save the shot. Unfortunately he used a tender part of the anatomy to make the save, and the cold water was again brought in to play. Jeff "The Bucket" Garland was having a busy day.

Kevin met the resultant corner at the far post and Greg was unable to hold his point blank header, but the ball was hacked clear.

With twenty minutes gone Dan limped off, Jay taking his position while Phil came on to play wide left. Another free kick conceded by Mark saw Ben Garland curl the ball in and force Steve to concede a corner as Kevin was breathing down his neck.

Ben Garland's kick was met with a thumping header from Kevin that came back off the bar and was hacked clear by Jack, Kye returning the ball only for Ben Crew to be caught offside.

Hengrove suddenly caught us dithering at the back and held a three on one advantage. Jason elected to shoot from the edge of the area, but spooned his shot and Greg easily held the ball.

With half an hour gone Greg made a good save with his feet as the ball was drilled in low from the right, but we broke clear and lax play at the back by Hengrove as John was slow to spot Jamie bearing down on him. Jamie won the ball and shot just a couple of feet over the bar.

Hengrove were straight back on the attack and as the ball was fielded by Greg it was adjudged a back pass although it looked like the ball had just ballooned his way when Steve went in to a tackle. Anyway, Kevin skewed the shot wide of the far post as he tried to hit it round the wall.

Another corner to Hengrove and Kye came in with a late run to head powerfully just over the bar. Joe then foiled a run by Jason down the left, with a well-timed tackle. Five minutes later and a not so well timed tackle by Joe brought down Jason in the penalty area.

Was it a dive? Was it a blatant "homer" decision by the referee? Unfortunately not. Jason slotted the ball low and hard, just inside Greg's left hand post and although Greg got a hand to the ball he couldn't keep it out of the net (2-2).

If Hengrove had had most of the second half play then they now attacked with renewed vigour as they sought a late winner. Three minutes left, plus stoppage time.

Handball by Mark saw a quickly taken free kick to release Marcus Smith in oceans of room on our right flank. He took the ball almost to the goal line before pulling it back for Jason to miss a relatively easy chance, putting the ball wide.

In to the seventh minute, by my watch, of time added on and Greg took a knock on the head as he went down at the feet of a Hengrove forward – no malicious challenge, just one of those collisions when both players are going for the ball.

Anyway, Greg was decidedly groggy and was carried off to Bath Royal United Hospital. Tom came on to bolster the midfield and Phil went in goal.

"How much longer ref", was everyone's query. "Another five minutes" was the reply. And he wasn't having a laugh.

I think at this stage that we would have settled for the draw, Phil was going to have more minders than there were security guards at Warmwell! Would the force be with us?

Having said that the next thing we see is Jack, of all people, that far forward he was caught offside. From the free kick the ball was route one – straight back in to our area. Phil blocked a point-blank shot from Ben Crew and the ball was scrambled clear.

A good cross in from Ricardo on our left saw Kevin diving in to head wide. We responded with a good break by Jamie; one-on-one on Matt he tried to take the ball round him but the 'keeper made a good save with his feet.

There was still time for Jason to have a one-on-one with Phil, blasting over from 12 yards and another break from Jamie that Matt came out to whack clear before the final whistle blew.

FULL TIME: HENGROVE 2 COLTS 2

Afterthoughts.....

A cracking game. Hard fought. We shaded the first half but Hengrove put us under tremendous pressure in the second half. You don't get to be League Champions and Cup Winners (and I don't see them blowing it) without grit and determination as well as flair. Both teams had chances to win the game and a draw was probably a fair result come the end - neither side deserved to lose. We regard it as a point won against the top team. Let's use the performance as a benchmark for our last six games and see if we can clinch the runners-up spot.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Lots of good performances. Jamie worked hard up front, Steve was cool at the back, However, Greg's handling in gusty conditions was impressive, he made some crucial saves, and even his kicking was good! So, my 'Man of the Match' choice was:

GREG TUCKER

U14MATCH REPORTU14MATCHREPORT
ALMONDSBURY
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FRY CLUB COLTS
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With Nick Frost supposedly on holiday, Phil was looking forward to stepping back in to the 'keepers' role. Fortunately Nick was available, but not Jay, Joe and Liam. The head count at the ground showed one short. Steve Payne had forgotten to pick up Mark - the lengths some parents will go to ensure their son gets a game! So we started with the bare eleven:

	Nick Frost		
Tom Hamblin	Jason McCrossan		
Nick Guest		Phil Knight	
Ian Field	Curtis Jack	Dan Payne	Ross Malone
Craig Palmer		Gareth Smith	

We kicked off but lost the ball and it was knocked back in to our half. Phil punted the ball towards the right wing and Curtis was slow to react and instead of reaching the ball first ended up

penalised for foot up in a challenge on an Almondsbury player. The free kick was played in to the box and, with the aid of a strong crosswind, reached the far side of the penalty area. Phil missed his header and the Almondsbury forward behind him headed across goal. Nick seemed to be deceived by the flight of the ball and nobody was marking the Almondsbury forward who had stolen in at the near post to prod the ball home from two feet! Really sloppy defending all round.

Another free kick, against Jason for a shove in the back, was allowed to bounce in the box where Dan pussyfooted around and ended up conceding a corner rather than belting the ball clear. Tom cleared the corner.

After this distinctly dodgy start we settled and started to play some better football although the gusty wind and the firm, uneven pitch didn't help our control and passing.

Almondsbury cleared a long throw from Jason, but only as far as Tom who knocked the ball back over the top of the advancing defence for Gareth to run through on. He reached the ball a second before the 'keeper but could only toe-end it in to his arms.

In to the twelfth minute and good work by Gareth by the right corner flag from Curtis' through ball won a throw. Curtis hurled the ball to Dan at the near post but he glanced his header a couple of feet over the bar. Tom hit a long free kick in to six-yard box, following a foul on Phil, but the 'keeper reached it before our on-rushing forwards.

Almondsbury almost scored a second goal in the eighteenth minute when a ball over the top of our defence saw an Almondsbury forward run through. Nick advanced but the forward was first to the ball, heading it over Nick who did well to stretch and clutch the ball.

Two minutes later and the Almondsbury 'keeper made a smart parry to Gareth's close range shot. Dan tried to force the rebound home but the 'keeper saved. We remained on the attack, and with Almondsbury only playing with one front man Phil took the opportunity to move forward and strike a shot from 25 yards that dipped over the bar.

Craig dropped back in to midfield, with Dan moving up front as Andy sought to add height to the attack. In to the last five minutes of the half, with us continuing to press and Almondsbury

looking to hit us on the break. Ian had a shot on the turn that was deflected for a corner and Craig's kick to the near post was knocked back out to him, but he failed to control the ball and it ran out for a throw. A long throw from Curtis again found the head of Dan, but his header was straight at the 'keeper.

HALF TIME: ALMONDSBURY 1 COLTS 0

Two minutes in to the half and a good interception and run down the right flank from Curtis saw Dan and Phil at the far post. Dan won the header against a defender and the ball dropped for Phil to shoot in to the side netting from a narrow angle.

Five minutes in to the half and Almondsbury gained a corner on our left flank, along which they were concentrating most of their breaks. However, Nick was having a good game at right back and Jason was sweeping across the back and providing cover when required. An Almondsbury player won the corner, but Nick got the second header and cleared for another corner that was low to the near post and struck wide by an attacker.

A dangerous swirling cross had Nick Frost in a bit of difficulty under pressure from an Almondsbury attacker. Unable to catch he managed to get a hand to the ball and Jason whacked the ball clear.

With ten minutes gone Mark came on to replace Gareth. Ross moved up front, Ian moved to the left flank and Craig to the right flank.

Tom hit another free kick too long and the keeper was able to catch the ball before our players could get to the ball. Dan then won a corner on the right that Craig hit to the edge of the area where it was half cleared for Nick to strike a shot from 25 yards that was well wide.

Just over a quarter of an hour gone and good play from Nick Guest sent Craig away down the right flank, only for him to be fouled. Tom struck the free kick with greater accuracy this time and Mark was only a foot wide of the far post with a glancing header.

Twenty minutes gone and Dan chased after a back pass. His presence was sufficient to pressurise the 'keeper who hacked the ball only as far as the edge of the area. Ian headed the ball down for **Mark** to volley low past the stranded 'keeper in to the corner of the net (1-1).

Five minutes later and a long throw from Jason, taken from near the corner flag bounced along in front of the goal with nobody able to get a touch, and was cleared at the far post.

A promising move down our left flank involving Ian, Ross and Dan ended when Curtis failed to control the pass inside and the ball was hit long for an unmarked Almondsbury player in a good position. Fortunately, Nick and Jason combined to force the ball out for a corner as he ran in on goal.

Jason cleared for a second corner, Nick hooked clear at the near post, and the ball came back in. Tom headed out to the edge of the area from where an Almondsbury player shot well wide.

In to the final ten minutes and we were continuing to press forward. This did leave us open to the counter attack, and Almondsbury's left winger left Nick and Jason trailing in his wake with some good close control before finishing weakly. Then a long kick from Nick Frost saw Dan harry a defender in to conceding a corner. The ball came right across to Curtis who couldn't get sufficient power in his shot to trouble the 'keeper.

Five minutes remaining and we were desperately looking for the winner. Ian and Ross did well on the left to win the ball from a defender. Ross crossed in and the ball was cleared only as far as Phil. He crossed in and the ball was only cleared as far as Nick. His cross in was met by Ross who had time and space to measure his header but in trying to get the ball over the 'keeper he was a fraction too high. Dan then flashed a header just wide from a throw in from Curtis and then Tom flicked another Curtis throw on. Ian was out-jumped by a defender but his challenge was sufficient to put him off and the ball dropped to Dan who lashed the ball inches over from ten yards.

FULL TIME: ALMONDSBURY 1 COLTS 1

Afterthoughts.....

We had most of the play, but by gifting Almondsbury a goal start it meant they could sit back and defend in numbers, and just try to hit us on the break. However, we still created sufficient chances to have cantered home by a distance. Andy's options were limited and who knows what might have happened if Mark had been there at the start. Sorry Steve, but you were the weakest link. Goodbye.