



FRY CLUB COLTS

U16 MATCH REPORT U16

Number 3

Athletic overcome for first win

23rd September 2002

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V
AVON ATHLETIC
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Jay injured and Ricky away, so the squad picked itself and after some tinkering around Andy came up with the following line-up:

	Nick Frost	
Tom Hamblin	Jason McCrossan	Mike Tarling
Rick Anstey	Liam Kavanagh	Ben Sinclair
Mark Webb	Ian Field	
Dan Payne	Danny Hunt	

Substitutes: Curtis Jack (Ben Sinclair, 34), Joe Cook (Danny Hunt, 52) Phil Knight (not used).

It wasn't until 20 minutes had passed that we had the first effort on goal – a header from Danny that was lacking in power and straight at the 'keeper from Mark's corner kick. Three minutes later and with Tom drawn in to the centre a crossfield ball to our right flank saw an Avon attacker in space, only for him to show a lack of composure and spoon his shot over the bar. A minute later and Avon scythed through the centre of our defence and Nick pulled off an excellent save, pushing the ball round the post.

A clearance by Avon was met by a meaty header from Tom that almost deceived the 'keeper with the ball bouncing over him – but he was able to turn and recover the situation. Confusion then at our end between Mark and Jason as the ball dropped between them and an Avon player managed to get in a fiercely driven shot that flew over the bar. A minute later and a dangerous ball across the face of our goal saw nobody get a contact and we managed to clear.

Half an hour gone and the ball was laid back from the edge of our penalty area for an advancing midfielder to strike the ball cleanly from 30 yards and bring out another fine diving save from Nick. Ben was injured as he and Dan both went in to a tackle on the same player, and Curtis came on to replace him.

The game was being played at a fast tempo with, if anything Avon playing the better football and shading the first half. With only a couple of minutes until half-time Ian appeared to handle the ball in the penalty area but the referee was unsighted, and then at the other end Liam managed a shot that was headed clear – somewhat involuntarily.

HALF-TIME: FRY CLUB 0 AVON ATHLETIC 0

Well, the first half had been absorbing rather than thrilling. The second half livened up a bit. Two minutes in to the half and from an Avon free kick Rick only managed to divert the ball to an opposition forward in the penalty area; again Nick pulled off a good save.

Five minutes in to the half, and a free kick to us, just over 20 yards out. **Tom** curled the ball, with power, over the wall and the 'keeper was left clawing thin air as the back of the net bulged (1-0).

Danny did manage to burst through a melee of players only for a defender's foot to get in an important touch out for a corner, that Avon cleared comfortably. An interesting substitution then, after 12 minutes of the half, Joe coming on to replace Danny.

A minute later and a promising move down our left flank involving Jason, Joe, Ian, and Curtis appeared to break down only for **Joe** to retrieve the ball on the right edge of the area and drill a low shot that the 'keeper let slip through his fingers (2-0). Inspired tactical switch or what? Pete Hunt, what can you say? Bearing in mind how we've not been to safe at the back recently it was reassuring to get that second goal. Liam then jinked his way in to the area and was only a whisker wide of the post with a low drive.

Coming up to 20 minutes of the half gone and Phil declined the offer of a bit of an outing – no doubt thinking flukey substitutions didn't happen twice in the match – pointing out that the defence was doing alright without him. Big mouth. A long ball over from our right flank, Mike out-jumped, Nick just off his line, a looping header – and make that 2-1.

Two minutes later and it was 2-2. Rick conceded a free kick for tripping and the ball was hit low from some 35 yards, and under Nick's dive in to the corner of the net.

Now we were in for a rather nervous few minutes. Avon had their tails up, had continued to play good football and been rewarded; we were rattled and suddenly on the backfield. Full credit then, for knuckling down to the task.

A crossfield run from out of defence by Jason and pass out to Rick on the right brought a cross that Curtis managed to latch on to, but couldn't direct the shot on target. Dan with a through ball that Joe seized upon only to see his finish just off target; a Curtis free-kick that dropped from a defender's head at the feet of Mark and Tom only for neither of them to be able to get a shot in. Then nearly caught on the break – Curtis getting back with a challenge that was just enough to make the Avon player shoot wide; the ball straight back upfield and Joe appealing for a penalty as he appeared to be pushed off the ball; exciting stuff.

Mark, back defending, got in a good tackle at the expense of a corner. Curtis got the knock-down and sprinted clear, advancing deep in to the opposition half before playing the ball inside for Dan to drive in a low shot that that, again, the 'keeper could not hold at the first attempt.

In to the last 10 minutes and Tom met Curtis's corner kick with a left-foot volley that rattled the crossbar. A minute later and a corner on the right saw **Tom**, inside the six-yard box beat the 'keeper and defender on the line with a downward header (3-2).

Dan was just off target with a near post header from Mark's long throw as we weathered Avon's last gasp efforts – Mike recovering from lengthy treatment, as had Dan earlier – to see out the game.

FULL-TIME: FRY CLUB 3 AVON ATHLETIC 2

Afterthoughts.....
Luck is supposed to even itself out over the course of the season. I guess that Avon will feel aggrieved at losing, just as we did the previous week. It was only really for the final quarter of an hour or so that I thought we outplayed them. Up until then I felt the game could have gone either way. I don't think that there are going to be many easy games this season. We certainly no longer look bigger and stronger than our opponents, so maybe we'll need to rely on Andy's tactics!

Despite our win, we actually dropped a place in the table. Already it looks like being a difficult season for the promoted clubs.

Avon Youth League U16s Division 1

Bamfield Sports	2 – 4	Henbury Colts 'B'
Bitton Boys 'A'	0 – 1	St Vallier
DRG Stapleton	0 – 2	Brislington Juniors 'A'
Fry Club Colts	3 – 2	Avon Athletic
Thornbury Falcons	10 – 2	St Nicholas 'A'
Whitchurch Spts 'A'	1 – 4	Whitchurch Sports 'B'

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
St Vallier	3	3	0	0	17	0	9	+17
Brislington 'A'	2	2	0	0	6	0	6	+6
Henbury Colts	3	2	0	1	11	9	6	+2
Whitchurch 'B'	3	2	0	1	7	5	6	+2
DRG Stapleton	3	2	0	1	4	4	6	0
Whitchurch 'A'	3	2	0	1	10	11	6	-1
Thornbury	3	1	0	2	11	11	3	0
Avon Athletic	3	1	0	2	7	7	3	0
Bitton Boys 'A'	3	1	0	2	3	3	3	0
Fry Club	3	1	0	2	6	7	3	-1
Bamfield Sports	3	0	0	3	3	10	0	-7
St Nicholas 'A'	2	0	0	2	2	20	0	-18

Fry Club Colts Junior Football Club – 22nd Sept

Fry Club U 10s	0 – 13	Luckwell Boys
St Nicholas 'B'	1 – 3	Fry Club U 11s
Fishponds Old Boys	4 – 2	Fry Club U 12s 'B'
Fry Club U 13s	3 – 1	Stoke Lane Athletic
Henbury Old Boys	1 – 0	Fry Club U14s
Chipping Sodbury YA	1 – 3	Fry Club U15s 'B'
Fry Club U16s	3 – 2	Avon Athletic

First round byes in both Cups – at least that's a help!

U 16s – Fixtures and Results

Sep	8	H	DRG Stapleton	1-2
	15	A	Henbury Old Boys 'B'	2-3
	22	H	Avon Athletic	3-2
	29		League Cup 1 st round - bye	
Oct	6	A	Whitchurch Sports 'B'	
	13	H	St Vallier	
	20	A	St Nicholas 'A'	
	27		League Cup – 2 nd round	
Nov	3		Somerset Cup 2 nd round	
	10	A	Bitton Boys 'A'	
	17	H	Whitchurch Sports 'A'	
	24	A	Brislington Juniors 'A'	
			(or League Cup 3 rd round)	
Dec	1	A	Bamfield Sports	
	8	A	DRG Stapleton	
	15	H	Henbury Old Boys 'B'	

Winter break

That's all for this week.