



FRY CLUB COLTS

U16 MATCH REPORT U16

Number 24

Brislington scrape narrow Cup Final victory

28th April 2003

<p>U16 MATCH REPORT U16 MATCH REPORT FRY CLUB COLTS V WHITCHURCH SPORTS 'B' U16 MATCH REPORT U16 MATCH REPORT</p>

Kick off was delayed for a quarter of an hour while we waited for a couple of our players who were delayed in traffic, and a 60 minute game was agreed. Despite starting with nine players, after a couple of minutes we were at full strength:

Nick Frost

Mike Tarling	Joe Cook	Tom Hamblin	Liam Kavanagh
Rick Anstey	Mark Webb	Ian Field	Ricky Lewis
Curtis Jack	Danny Hunt		

Substitute: Ben Sinclair (Ian Field, 40)

Seven minutes in to the game and a Whitchurch corner was played short. Ian's attempted clearance rebounded off a Whitchurch player and a shot from the edge of the area was parried by Nick, and Mark stepped in to hammer the ball clear as two attackers went for the loose ball. We responded with a good run from Ian, out of defence and down the left flank before releasing a crossfield ball for Rick to pick out the unmarked Danny at the far post, only for his downward header to be blocked by the 'keeper.

Ian picked out Rick with another good ball and Ricky met his cross. Although he miss-kicked with his first attempt, he won back the ball and drilled a shot a couple of feet wide. However, with 20 minutes gone, a break down our right flank by Whitchurch resulted in cross in to our six-yard box and the ball placed firmly past Nick in to the roof of the net (0-1).

Curtis picked the ball up in midfield and unleashed an effort from 30 yards that was just wide, before Liam, Ian and Danny combined on the left that finished with Danny hitting a shot from a narrow angle that was safely held by the 'keeper. With half time approaching a corner on our right by Whitchurch saw Nick make a good save from a header at the far post.

HALF TIME : FRY CLUB 0 WHITCHURCH 'B' 1

Whitchurch were immediately on the attack and a shot from the edge of the penalty area was just wide of Nick's post. However, within two minutes we were level. A quick, short throw by Mark to the supporting Mike saw him lob the ball in to the six-yard box, where both Ian and Danny attempted to win the ball before it dropped for Tom to shoot home from close range (1-1).

Five minutes later and we were nearly behind again as a poor throw out from Nick put Tom under pressure and a Whitchurch player flashed a shot across the face of the goal.

Ben came on to replace Ian with ten minutes gone, and twelve minutes in to the half a foul by Mark saw a free kick fired in to our defensive wall. Tom won the ball and Liam carried the ball out of defence with a left wing run before releasing Danny who won a corner. Unfortunately the short corner came to nothing.

Despite play continuing to be played at a fair pace, neither 'keeper was called in to action for most of the half. Another free kick by Whitchurch saw a header just wide, but it wasn't until we were actually in to stoppage time that a corner to Whitchurch, on our left, saw the ball headed home (1-2).

A minute later and a charged down clearance gave Rick the opportunity to set Curtis free. He made his way in to the penalty area only to slip and lose momentum. Although he managed to regain the ball, his shot was saved at the near post.

FULL TIME : FRY CLUB 1 WHITCHURCH 'B' 2

Afterthoughts.....

Too often our forwards are isolated from our midfield as our defenders bypass our midfield with long clearances. Sometimes, particularly under pressure from an opponent, the big welly is the best tactic. However, when the midfield has dropped back to help defend we should be looking to pass the ball around to feet a bit more, rather than playing long balls in to space. It gives our midfield the chance to support the front runners who can look to knock the ball back in to the path of the advancing midfield as a change from one forward just trying to flick the ball on to his partner up front, where we are normally outnumbered.

Also, with the centre backs, or at least one of them, marking - rather than both standing off and leaving it to the full backs - it gives us added width by allowing the full backs the opportunity to attack down the flanks. Again, this adds variety to our, at times, too predictable route one through the middle. Still, rumour has it we're playing 3-5-2 on Sunday, so - feed the wide men!

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V
WHITCHURCH SPORTS 'A'
U16 MATCH REPORT U16 MATCH REPORT

A re-run of the League Cup final – could we get our revenge? A late re-arrangement of the game on Easter Sunday meant that Andy had to shuffle players around, but we still looked a reasonably potent threat:

Nick Frost

Mike Tarling Tom Hamblin Jason McCrossan Phil Knight
 Mattie Green Ben Sinclair Ian Field Ricky Lewis
 Curtis Jack Danny Hunt

Another change in personnel was in respect of the match reporter – Graham Tarling taking charge of the recording equipment and making some astute observations. Read on:

The opening five minutes were evenly contested, but a lack of communication led to Whitchurch taking the lead. Tom and Mike both went for the ball, but neither of them made it. Instead, the Whitchurch centre forward darted in and headed home (0-1).

With a quarter of an hour gone play was still pretty even, Curtis was wide with an effort and then Ricky burst through only to shoot over the crossbar. Mattie then latched on to a pass and cut the ball back from the right wing for Curtis to blast the ball over the bar. Five minutes later and Mattie ran through the centre of the defence and confused everyone – but particularly the Whitchurch defender who scored in his own net with our best strike of the season (1-1)!

With a quarter of an hour of the half remaining we were awarded a free kick just outside of the penalty area, but Danny blasted the shot wide. Going in to the final ten minutes and Whitchurch were starting to exert more pressure. From a corner kick the Whitchurch centre forward headed just over the bar, and then Mike won the ball and found Curtis with a long pass. Curtis advanced in to the penalty area before again shooting wide.

Another Whitchurch corner was swung in, against the crossbar and behind for a goalkick as the half meandered to a close – there appeared to be a lot of disinterested players who wished that they were somewhere else

HALF TIME : FRY CLUB 1 WHITCHURCH 'A' 1

Five minutes in to the half and a cross from our left flank saw a familiar lack of marking as we conceded probably the softest goal of the season to gift Whitchurch the lead (1-2).

Two minutes later and a through ball from a free-kick saw Nick, with both hands on the ball, only to spill it, grab it again only for a Whitchurch player to knock the ball from his grasp and the referee allow the goal to stand (1-3).

Ten minutes in to the half and poor defending – lack of marking and tackling in the penalty area allowed Whitchurch to score again (1-4). Immediately afterwards and we were awarded a free kick for handball, 25 yards out. This time Tom had a try for goal, only to hit his shot way over the bar.

Coming up to 20 minutes gone and a mass rush upfield saw Mike take on about 15 players (*surely an exaggeration? – Editor*) before Danny received the ball and crossed for Mattie to head just wide. With just over a quarter of an hour of the game remaining a throw-in in to our penalty area saw Whitchurch pass the ball neatly before burying the ball in the

back of the net (1-5). Nick then pulled off a good save to prevent us conceding six goals in a game for the first time since – well, can you remember?

With just over ten minutes on the clock, Curtis went on a run down the left flank before cutting inside and beating a couple of players before clinically finishing (2-5). In to the last five minutes and some reasonable link-up play saw the ball eventually reach Danny, only for him to squirt the ball across the goal.

FULL TIME : FRY CLUB 2 WHITCHURCH 'A' 5

Afterthoughts.....
A really disappointing performance - particularly in the second half we gave the ball away too often, and there were too many players who didn't seem to want to win as much as the opposition did - shades of the Cup Final.

Manager's pearls of wisdom.....
October 31 1999, at under-13 level, we lost 6-3 to Frampton Cotterell in the Cup. That was the last time we conceded five or more goals in a game. Never mind!

Bristol U18 Combination

League results – 27th April

Nailsea Rovers	5 – 9	Banwell
Henbury Colts	0 – 0	Cadbury Heath Colts
Keynsham Town	P	Deerswood
Weston St Johns	10 – 0	St Nicholas

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Cadbury Heath	21	15	3	3	71	18	48	+53
Nicholas Wdrs	20	14	2	4	57	38	44	+19
Henbury Colts	17	13	3	1	42	19	42	+23
Deerswood	19	12	2	5	43	27	38	+16
St Nicholas	22	12	1	9	67	49	37	+18
Banwell	17	11	2	4	58	38	35	+20
Brislington Jun	24	11	1	12	54	56	34	-2
Fry Club	21	9	2	10	68	59	29	+9
Nailsea Rovers	21	8	2	11	51	63	26	-12
Wangotsfield	20	4	3	13	31	58	15	-27
Weston St Johns	18	3	2	13	25	59	11	-34
Barnfield Sports	20	2	2	16	18	65	8	-47
Keynsham Town	19	3	1	15	27	63	7	-36

I know the table doesn't add up correctly (particularly Keynsham's results) – but it's taken from the Evening Post of 25 April, with Sunday's results added – it's not my fault!

Commiserations to the U18s, runners-up to Barnfield Sports in the League Cup Final, held at Brislington's ground on Sunday. They went in to the match as favourites after two convincing league wins against the opposition and on the back of an 8-2 thumping of high-fliers Nicholas Wanderers.

However, they went two down to a penalty and a long-range free kick that flew in to the top corner of Ryan Perry's goal. They rallied to trail 2-1 at half time thanks to a Mat Crew goal, and also had a shot from Shaun Green that hit the bar, and a second half 'goal' disallowed when Shaun volleyed in Jason Pitman's flick-on. Chasing the game, they conceded a breakaway goal in the second half to go down 3-1.

U16 SOMERSET CUP FINAL REPORT
BRISLINGTON JUNIORS 'A'
 V
FRY CLUB COLTS
U16 SOMERSET CUP FINAL REPORT

Well, with the exception of Tom Goodfellow, all those eligible to play reported for duty at Street Town's ground, so we had the luxury of a couple of substitutes as we lined up:

Nick Frost

Mike Tarling Tom Hamblin Curtis Jack Liam Kavanagh
 Rick Anstey Ben Sinclair Ian Field Jason McCrossan
 Ricky Lewis Danny Hunt

Substitutes:

Jay Slade (Ricky Lewis, 44), Mattie Green (Ben Sinclair, 65).

Brislington did the early pressing, but it was seven minutes in to the game before the first chance arrived. A free kick was swung in from our left flank and Nick was down smartly to save. We responded with a quick break and Ian picked out Danny who won an indirect free kick on the edge of the penalty area – adjudged to be a case of obstruction rather than a foul. Tom swung in the free kick and Danny was just unable to reach the ball at the far post.

We started to exert some pressure of our own, and, with a quarter of an hour gone, a surging run from Curtis took him to within 40 yards of the Brislington goal before he was brought down. Danny took the free kick and Tom headed the ball back in to his path for him to evade a challenge and strike a low drive that had the 'keeper scrambling across his line, but the ball passed just wide of the post.

With almost half an hour gone, there was little to choose between the two teams. Both defences were in the ascendancy and it was difficult to see where a goal would come from, neither 'keeper having been really tested.

With ten minutes of the half remaining, Brislington raised the pace of the game, and we needed to defend strongly. A foul by Tom on the edge of the right edge of our penalty area saw Nick drop the cross in and Liam clear off the line. A minute later and a fast break down our right flank saw the ball cut back to a waiting striker, but Jason was in quickly to block the shot. Curtis then conceded a free kick 35 yards out and the ball was turned in from our left flank and a Brislington shot looped off a defender for a corner. Danny was impeded as he attempted to head clear, and the pressure was relieved as we were awarded a free kick.

Another break down our left flank saw the ball crossed in and a Brislington player had a free header from eight yards but couldn't find the target. A break through the centre of our defence from a long Brislington clearance saw Liam get back to unsettle the attacker as he prepared to shoot, and Nick was out quickly to smother the ball. Two minutes later and Nick pulled off an excellent save as a Brislington player waltzed in to our penalty area from the right flank and crossed for an on target header came in from within the six yard box. Nick managed to get a hand to the ball and Liam was on hand to complete the clearance.

With a minute of the half remaining, Ricky injured his ankle in a challenge. He'd been carrying the injury from the previous week and had lacked his normal buzz – Jay came on to replace him.

HALF TIME : BRISLINGTON 0 FRY CLUB 0

Brislington started the second half as they ended the first, putting us under pressure. In the first minute a break down our left flank saw a shot from a narrow angle hit the side netting. Five minutes in to the half, and Mike's attempted headed clearance looped out to the right wing where it was picked up by a Brislington player who made ground in to the penalty area. Liam came across to challenge and the Brislington player went to ground. It looked an innocuous challenge, but the referee signalled a penalty – a harsh decision, we felt. Nick guessed the right way but was defeated by the pace of the shot, struck just inside his left-hand post (0-1).

With ten minutes of the half gone we started to get back in to the game but were still not bringing Jason and Rick in to the game to any real extent and Danny and Jay were finding it hard going against the Brislington defence.

A quick throw from Mike saw Danny turn and win a corner on the right, which he took himself. After an hour's play it was our first corner of the match. The ball was headed out to Ian on the edge of the area, but his shot was charged down and the ball cleared.

With almost twenty minutes gone, Tom and Liam had both been successful in breaking down Brislington attacks, and Liam again cleared the ball off the line following a Brislington corner. Mike then made a good interception and found Ian with his pass. Both Jay and Danny hared goalwards but a defender just got a foot to Ian's threaded through ball.

A minute later and Ian broke free in to the Brislington penalty area and tumbled over under a Brislington challenge. It looked a more clear-cut penalty than the one already awarded but the referee just signalled for Ian to get up! Jay then won a corner, but hit the ball in to the side netting.

Brislington made a substitution and we brought on Mattie Green to play up front alongside Jay. Danny dropped back in to midfield and Ben came off. Curtis switched position with Jason as we sought the equaliser.

A Brislington corner ended with an overhead kick that was just over the bar before Mattie showed good control to turn and cross invitingly in to the six-yard, but no one was there to get on the end of it. Brislington responded with a curling shot from just outside the area that Nick held comfortably.

In to the last five minutes, and Mattie turned like greased lightning to latch on to Ian's through ball. The 'keeper came out to narrow the angle but Mattie slid the ball past him and could only watch as the ball passed, agonisingly, six inches the wrong side of the post. It was the last chance of the game.

FULL TIME : BRISLINGTON 1 FRY CLUB 0

Afterthoughts.....
We knew that we were the definite underdogs going in this game. Although Brislington created more chances I thought that we were strong in defence, and got bodies in the right places at the right time - which is what defending is all about. I also thought that Liam had an outstanding game against Tom Evans and was extremely unfortunate with the penalty decision. With such an all round committed performance we didn't deserve to lose in such a way. Well played everyone.

RESULTS – TABLES – FIXTURES

Avon Youth League U16s Division 1: w/e 27th April

Avon Athletic	5 – 2	Bitton Boys 'A'
Bitton Boys 'A'	1 – 0	DRG Stapleton
Bitton Boys 'A'	4 – 1	St Nicholas
DRG Stapleton	2 – 0	Whitchurch Sports 'B'
Fry Club Colts	2 – 5	Whitchurch Sports 'A'
St Nicholas	2 – 0	Whitchurch Sports 'A'
St Vallier	0 – 2	Henbury Colts 'B'
Whitchurch Sports 'A'	3 – 2	Thornbury Falcons

The table includes points awarded by the management committee where fixtures did not take place. No goals are awarded, however, and the score counts as 0-0.

Avon Athletic	3 pts	Barnfield Sports	0 pts
Avon Athletic	3 pts	Thornbury	0 pts
Brislington Jun	3 pts	St Nicholas	0 pts
DRG Stapleton	0 pts	Henbury Colts	3 pts
Henbury Colts	3 pts	Avon Athletic	0 pts

Avon Youth League U16s Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Brislington 'A'	16	15	0	1	62	11	45	+51
Henbury Colts	18	15	0	3	49	23	45	+26
Whitchurch 'B'	19	13	0	6	43	25	39	+18
Avon Athletic	20	11	1	8	46	28	34	+18
Whitchurch 'A'	18	10	2	6	45	41	31	+4
St Vallier	19	9	3	7	45	26	30	+19
Fry Club	19	9	2	8	48	29	29	+19
Bitton Boys 'A'	20	9	0	11	40	39	27	+1
DRG Stapleton	20	6	4	10	31	44	22	-13
St Nicholas 'A'	21	4	0	17	24	89	12	-65
Barnfield Spts	20	2	4	14	27	70	10	-43
Thornbury	18	2	2	14	34	69	8	-35

A top three spot is beyond us. However, fourth place is still a possibility. I know that it's been a long season, but it would be nice to finish as high as possible. On paper we have an easier run-in than the other teams in 4th – 8th place, most of whom still have to play each other or top-three teams:

Avon Athletic – DRG Stapleton (H), St Vallier (H).
Bitton Boys – Brislington (H), Whitchurch 'A' (A).
St Vallier – Brislington (H), Avon Athletic (A), Barnfield (A).
Whitchurch 'A' – Bitton (H), Brislington (H), Henbury (A), Whitchurch 'B' (A).

I guess we also need Brislington to be able to fulfil their fixtures. If they beat Henbury on Tuesday 29th April (presumably a double-header) then they'll only need one point from a possible four games to sew up the league, and the season's end is fast approaching!

Fry Club Juniors - League games: w/e 27th April

Fry Club U10s	0 – 5	Henbury Colts
Fry Club U11s	12 – 1	Yate Rangers
Fry Club U12s 'A'	0 – 3	Downend Wanderers
The Hornets	13 – 1	Fry Club U12s 'B'
Fry Club U13s	4 – 1	Mangotsfield
St Vallier	2 – 0	Fry Club U14s
Fry Club U15s	3 – 10	Coalpit Heath
Fry Club U15s	6 – 3	Chipping Sodbury

U16s - appearances and goals

F = Played the full game
 B = Began the game but was substituted
 P = Played in the game after coming on as a substitute
 S = Non-playing substitute
 L = League goals
 C = Cup goals

	F	B	P	S	L	C
Rick Anstey	23	4	1		4	6
Joe Cook	14	5	4		1	3
Ian Field	24	3	2		2	3
Nick Frost	28					
Tom Goodfellow	1					1
Mattie Green	2		1			
Tom Hamblin	22	1	1		5	3
Danny Hunt	27	1	1		7	5
Curtis Jack	26	1	1		5	5
Liam Kavanagh	8	4	6	1		
Phil Knight	16	3	1	2		1
Ricky Lewis	21	2	2		3	6
Jason McCrossan	10	1				3
Dan Payne	14	1			10	5
Ben Sinclair	5	2	7	1		
Jay Slade	3	3	3		1	1
Mike Tarling	21	2	2		2	
Mark Webb	20	1	2		6	1
Own goals					2	

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

For the final league game of the season – at Thornbury we will be wearing our yellow strip.

The traditional finale to the season, the U16s against the combined might (some might say weight) of the Fry Club Colts Managers will take place on the morning of the FA Cup final (Saturday 17th May, 10.30 KO). It's five years since the managers' last lost this fixture, so let's give them their come-uppance! The penalty shoot-out competition will take place before this, at 9.30.

Individual trophies for the season, together with the presentation of trophies for Players' Player, Parents' Sportsman, and Most Improved Player of the season will also take place on this morning, after the match.

The main presentation evening, for all the Fry Club Colts teams will be held at Fry Club on Thursday 22nd May, please be there at 8.15 for 8.30 pm – and preferably looking smart!

CONGRATULATIONS

The Fry Club Colts U11s won their division when they beat Yate Rangers on Sunday. Well done to all the players and to their manager Sam McLeod, who is recovering from illness and was there to watch, and to his assistant Steve Curtis.