

Number 16

Elegantly Wasted

Sunday 11th November 2007

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At home to Henbury. They had always beaten us, but this year they were down with us so a close game was on the cards. Judging by this season's results, they had scored lots, but let in just as many, so the trick was to stop them scoring and hopefully we would get our share.

The line up was:

Joby Jack Callum Joel Spike Aaron Josh Tom Max Chilly Charlie

Subs: Joe & Dan

We forced an early corner which came to Aaron with his back to goal. He spun on his left foot but mis-hit the shot. We attacked out of our defence but lost the ball. It was hit over the top between Spike and Jack who left it for each other and so they were through and Joby had no chance 0-1. Their player ran into our area and we made half-hearted tackle after tackle, and we had about ten opportunities where someone had a chance to put their foot through it and clear, even when the ball came loose, but no one did and then it deflected off of one of their players and just trickled into the corner 0-2. From the kick Tom attacked down the right, forcing his way to the box where he rounded the 'keeper and crossed it. Charlie got it with his back to goal and overhead kicked it, however two of their players had gotten back onto the line and one of them headed it clear. We attacked and lost the ball, and they broke so quickly with an eventual ball over the top and Joby came out to narrow the angle and got his hand to the shot to push it wide for a corner. They broke again guickly down the wing and shot. Joby saved, but it bounced over him towards the goal, and Joel on the line cleared it. We had a corner which Tom one-two'd with Aaron. He then played it back to Aaron who ran in and swung at the ball, however it bobbled and he missed it and they were on the break. It was swung into the middle and Joby reached for it but missed and they shot, and this time Jack on the line, mis-hit the clearance, but it was enough to take it wide for a corner. We broke from that corner, Tom

playing Charlie through, forcing their defenders to give away a corner. It came in, but we headed wide.

HALF-TIME : FRYS 0 HENBURY 2

We won a free kick in our half which Jack took, but he underhit it and suddenly it was four onto three, and a ball through found Joby one on one. He came to the edge of his area and made himself as big as he could and made a great save when they shot. We were attacking but it broke down and they were away. We cleared for a throw but they took it instantly to keep up the pressure and a ball through gave Joby no chance 0-3. From the kick we looked to go forward but it was lost and their player just ran unchallenged past three players, crossed it in and gave the attacker the easiest of tap-ins 0-4. Spike won the ball in midfield and got it wide to Joe. He went down the line and beat his man to cross it in to where Chilly hit it first time, but the 'keeper parried. They both went for it again and the 'keeper just got there first. Charlie Joe and Dan pressured well to earn a corner on the right. Tom took it and Aaron got a touch which looked to be going wide, however their defender tried to keep it in and only succeeded in playing it back to Tom. He created a better angle and shot for the far corner where the 'keeper tried to catch it high, but was unable to hold onto it and dropped it into the net 1-4. They attacked again, Nick put up the flag but the ref waved play on and the shot gave Joby no chance 1-5. We attacked left from the kick and forced a throw by their area. Joe launched it, it bounced, Tom headed it on and Chilly had an open goal with his head 2-5. They attacked down the left and our team kept seeming to stop as it looked to go out but they worked hard and a cross from on the line found an unmarked attacker who made no mistake 2-6. They took a goal-kick, Tom took a touch up and then volleyed it back, but just over.

FULL-TIME : FRYS 2 HENBURY 6

Man of the Match – Chosen by Andy for excellent play and effort – Joby & Max

Afterthoughts.....

I was not happy at this game as my half-time rant will attest to. We didn't work for each other, didn't clear the ball with enough conviction and were generally poor everywhere. They however were the fastest attacking team I have seen. Not the speed of their players, but as a team they would attack from the back with five or six players, moving it around so quickly were just didn't know which way to turn. When we did actually get the ball and try to pass, we cut through them. Unfortunately, we just didn't do it nearly enough times.