



FRY CLUB COLTS

U12 MATCH REPORT U12

Number 20 Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear. Sunday 5th April 2009

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BROMLEY HEATH
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Sam was off to Mexico on holiday and this was the first of two games without him. Josh had been ill with a chest infection throughout the week, but had been passed fit after a medical on Saturday (well, his Dad looked at him and told him he was ok). Bromley had been buoyed since we had beaten them, with four wins and a draw, so it would be interesting to see how we coped. We changed the line-up deliberately to respond to the absentee with Spike holding the midfield. The idea being that the front five had more freedom to attack, knowing that there were five covering behind.

The line up was:

Joby
Dan Josh Aaron Joel
Spike
Jay Tom Max
Andy Joe

Substitute: Kallan

Before the game, Dave & I expressed the need for players not to duck out of headers, and early on both Joel and Dan made firm headed clearances. They put a ball over the top for their fast striker to get onto, but we cleared well and then for the next ten we camped in their half. Joe threw long and it was missed by all heading towards the 'keeper. Andy chased and the 'keeper fumbled before grabbing it, but it gave us an insight into what we could achieve with concerted pressure on the goal. Their 'keeper kicked long and it was flicked on. Aaron got there and played it back to Joby, however it was bobbling a bit and he mis-hit it up and to his right, and Aaron dived in to clear it. From the throw they went down the line and Jay had his man in the corner. Instead of standing him up though he went for the ball and the winger was able to get onto his left foot and he hit it across. Joby went for it but caught a boot in the mouth, possible from one of ours, and despite Joel's efforts at the back post it was bundled over the line 0-1. Joe on the left floated in a great ball which was cleared to Spike. He beat his man and went back out to Joe who found Tom at the back post with another cross, but Tom's header went just the wrong side of the post. Another corner came in and as it bounced on the edge Jay dived head first for it whilst their defender tried to kick it. The upshot of it was an indirect free-kick inside the box for a high-boot. Andy lined up to play it onto Tom's left foot. The ref blew and they charged before it was kicked so it was reset. Tom then quickly stood to the right to nullify the wall, and although he was a bit unset, he got his shot in only to see it blocked on the line..... by Aaron! To be fair the 'keeper was right behind him and would have almost certainly caught it anyway. They cleared it long and Josh on the halfway won it to Aaron who was running back. He turned and poked it through for **Joe**, on the left and a good 25 yards out, but instead of going for power, he saw the 'keeper off of his line and scooped it with back spin over the 'keeper and in 1-1. Joe took a big throw from the left which bounced through towards the 'keeper, however Andy challenged him, making him fumble and a defender cleared it for a throw on the right. Joe trotted over to that side and sent in another, and Tom, under pressure from two players still managed to win the flick on and **Andy** headed for the far left corner 2-1. From a throw on the right, Tom won and hit towards the left for Max to run on to, but it was bouncing high and his shot went over. Tom won the ball from a throw on our left and hit it over the top for Andy to chase. It actually hit him on the shoulder

and bounced perfectly. Andy was in line with the left post, but the 'keeper was directly ahead, meaning Andy just had to swivel his body and pass into the open right side of the net, however he was unable to turn enough and it was too close to the 'keeper. Right at the end of the half, a ball over the top down their left saw them cut in and cross, but Joby dived outwards and held it well.

HALF-TIME: FRY 2 B/HEATH 1

At half-time we told the boys to change formation in a few minutes when Kallan came on, to give a little bit more protection to the defence.

Joby
Dan Josh Aaron Joel
Kallan Spike
Jay Tom Max
Andy

We kicked off the second half with a ball back to Aaron to hit into the left corner. Their right back missed it and Tom was after it, although it was bouncing progressively wider, and he was unable to get his foot around it enough. From a corner into the side netting, which also saw **Tom** pushed over, a goal-kick came out to him. We had told him to be strong and he shrugged off two challenges and curled it into the far left side of the net 3-1. Kallan won the ball from a drop kick and got it to Tom. He twice shaped to shoot, but players were in the way, so on the second time he laid a lovely ball wide for Max, but his shot was just over. (According to Jon he "messed it up!") A ball wide to the left was won by Max and he worked extremely hard to win it. He beat three players around him in close proximity before getting it just inside to Tom, who did the same thing with players all around him before getting it to **Andy** who used his strength to roll the defender and blasted it high into the net 4-1. We then had a "Zola Budd" moment (players ask your parents for an explanation!) but the free kick was low and Aaron headed it clear. Dan & Spike then tried to head a low ball but it went beyond them, and Tom ran back to the edge of our box, dispossessed the attacker, turned and strode forward before hitting it down the right for Jay to chase, but he was tackled just as he went to cross it. Their 'keeper got it and did a low drop-kick wide to a player who chipped it over the top and Joby had to dive down quickly to make the save. Dan then tried to clear the ball but it was charged down and crossed in for an easy tap in as we had all been heading out 4-2. We tried to catch them offside near the end, however this time three players beat the trap and Joby made himself big, forcing the attacker to shoot wide of the post.

FULL-TIME: FRY 4 B/HEATH 2

Man of the Match – Chosen by Andy & Dave for excellent play and effort – Tom & Andy

Afterthoughts.....

We asked for a committed performance from our players and told them to rise to every challenge, which they did, and they were magnificent. We took the goal against us as a need to up our game and they responded brilliantly. Any time a player is missing it means the rest of the team need to adapt, and they did it professionally. Well done.