



## FRY CLUB COLTS

# U12 MATCH REPORT U12

Number 24

They cannot take away our self-respect if we do not give it to them.

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2009

<p align="center"> <b>U12 MATCH REPORT U12 MATCH REPORT</b>  <b>CADBURY HEATH 'B'</b>  <b>V</b>  <b>FRY CLUB COLTS</b>  <b>U12 MATCH REPORT U12 MATCH REPORT</b> </p>
---

The final game of the season, and we knew that we had to win about 30-0 and hope FDS lost one, to win the league! Joby was on holiday in Torquay, and would have come back if we had a realistic chance. Jay was in Bashley, and he did come up, and was able to go in goal for the first half at least. Cadbury Heath needed to win to effectively avoid the risk of relegation, so we knew it wouldn't be easy, however they only had ten players due to the Bank Holiday. It was without doubt the shortest pitch that we had played on since leaving the seven-a-side format!

The line up was:

		Jay		
Dan	Josh	Aaron	Joel	
Sam	Spike	Tom	Max	
	Andy	Joe		

Substitute: Kallan

We attacked down the left and switched right for Sam to win a throw. Joe threw long, it bounced in our favour and Tom hit it past their 'keeper 0-1. Joel won a free-kick wide left. Tom put a beautiful ball over for both Andy and Aaron to run at. Aaron headed it past their 'keeper, but the flag was up for offside. They attacked down their right and crossed it in. Aaron headed it back and so it was returned high, and Jay, under pressure caught it well. Joe threw long, their defender headed it up and Sam got it back to Joe, who hit for the far post, but their 'keeper made the save. They hit a corner over, Joel headed it clear, and the shot came back too high. Joe again with the throw saw Andy flick on for Aaron, but again their 'keeper just got there. Their linesman was flagging against both teams for foul throws with feet on the line. I felt that he ought to be informed, for the benefit of both teams, that the Laws had changed about three years ago, and as long as neither foot was completely over the line, it was legal. He reacted angrily to my information, and despite me saying it was for both teams, came up, barged his chest into me and said "F\*\*k off or I'll spark you out!" Discretion being the better part of valour, I apologised for offending him and we shook hands. That said, his reaction offended me as a football fan, and at the very least I will submit a complaint to their Secretary as his short fuse could jeopardise their Charter Standard status, and with it the very future of their Club, something I would not wish to see. Joe ran down the line well and forced a corner. Sam swung it in and Aaron rose in the middle to head for the far corner 0-2. Dan chipped a lovely ball down the line for Andy, but their big defender was able to clear it and suddenly they were through, however Aaron chased back and slid his foot in just as they were about to shoot. Josh won the ball on the edge of our box, but it bounced up and hit his hand, so they were awarded a free-kick just outside the box. We place five on the line and it was enough for the block at the expense of a corner. The corner came over and their big players challenged, but Jay was strong and got his fist to it to swipe it away. Joe was a good 30 yards out on the left when the ball came to him. He controlled it and then shot high. Brandon's & Charlie's parents were here to watch today, and Gareth said "in" straight away as I said "over". Luckily, I was wrong and it skimmed the underside of the crossbar, before dropping in 0-3. A debateable free-kick was awarded (however I was some distance from the incident) just outside of our box. It was floated in, I we thought Jay was going to come and take it, however it must have taken a strange bounce as he missed it completely and their attacker was almost on the line as he headed it in 1-3. They were lifted by this and another attack saw them go wide of Jay, however Joel made a stunning tackle as they went to shoot and then Aaron slid in with a touch to take it away from two more attackers. Joe ran down the left towards their line and a challenge came in to take it behind. The flag was up for a goal-kick and some of our parents, and players reacted angrily. I will defend it from where I stood however as it looked a 50-50 challenge from my point of view, and also, the referee had given it before the linesman raised his flag. Also, as a referee, if I am unsure of who took the last touch, I will always award to the defending team.

HALF-TIME: C/HEATH B 1 FRY S 3

At this point Joel went in goal, Spike went left back and Jay went up front. Tom swung a free-kick in to the back post, but no one was able to get on the end of it. They played a dangerous ball into the middle. Joel charged out and made a great save at their feet, but it broke loose for another attacker to return it high and into the net 2-3. Josh now went in goal. Joe swung over a lovely corner from the right, and similar to the first half, Aaron rose

unchallenged to head it in 2-4. Max won the ball emerging from defending and got it to Sam. He timed it perfectly and released Joe down the left who chipped a lovely ball over for Jay to run at, however their 'keeper was bravely out and just got there ahead of him. Joe played it in for Tom, who played wide for Max. He was caught in the box and stumbled but carried on, before being bundled over and the ref had no alternative but to give a penalty. With just Dan & Joel having not scored from the players here it was down to one of them and Dan ran forward first! He struck a lovely ball high into the top left 2-5. Joe back-heeled down the line for Max to cross. One of their defenders headed on wards and upwards to the back post to where Kallan struck it on the volley, but unfortunately it went wide. We made our final positional changes.....

		Joe		
Andy	Sam	Tom	Max	
Kallan	Josh	Aaron	Spike	
	Jay	Joel		

They attacked down our left and three of our players attempted to clear before a ricochet fell to their attacker, but he drilled it across goal. Kallan attacked down the right, and despite being fouled managed to get the ball in. Joel hit it inside and Josh chipped for Spike in front of goal and he side-footed it past the 'keeper 2-6. Their big defender found himself in space and shot, but Joe was able to hold it. Aaron won it on the right from a throw and crossed it to the far post where Spike ran in with an open goal, but hit it the wrong side! 10 press-ups anyone.....? Their 'keeper kicked long and with two bounces they were through, however Andy slid in well and cleared it for a corner. It came in from the corner and Spike tried to clear the bouncing ball, but it appeared to hit one of their players on the backside and flew in 3-6. Max chipped a great ball over the top and Joel raced in as the 'keeper raced out. They came together and the ball bobbed loose, but their 'keeper reacted very quickly and dived after it.

FULL-TIME: C/HEATH B 3 FRY S 6

Man of the Match – Chosen by Andy for excellent play and effort – The Whole Team

### Afterthoughts.....

*I make no apologies for the Team Man of the Match. Not just for the battling today, and their great adaptation to my various strange positional changes, but for the way they have battled the odds all season, and coped with the changes that have occurred. We were deserved winners today, and although it wasn't the 30 that we needed to keep the pressure on FDS, it confirmed us as clearly top-two and first division bound.*

*Moving on to thoughts about the season. Firstly congratulations to Dan, Joel & Tom. Three Friendly games, two Cup games and 20 League games; these guys were ever-present. In the case of Joel & Tom, that's two consecutive seasons without missing a League or Cup game, and as injuries and illness can strike at any time, that is an achievement worthy of note!*

*So what about the season? We lost Callum & Jack to the Juniors and were short of defensive cover. With Jack going, so went Mark, and Dave came in to be my assistant. I asked Josh & Aaron to be the Centre-back pairing whilst I recruited two new defenders. You know, just for a few weeks.....*

*We were disappointed not to win at Deerswood with 11 players; then thought that we were back on track as 11 (12 until Charlie departed to Oldland) beat Cadbury Heath 'B'. But then only 10 players saw us get caught badly at Brislington, we started with 12 and were excellent against FDS, but failed to convert a hatful of chances, then ended with 10 and lost, not only the game, but our 'keeper for six weeks to a fractured wrist. Then to Longwell Green, and although Brad did well for us to make it 11, two players were off of their game, and we were effectively short again, losing again. Five games in, four points on the board, and the team losing the belief that they had started the season with.*

*So what changed it all? Two games, the first against Henbury where our bare 11 took on their bare 11, and I challenged the team to show us that it was just our shortage of players that had cost us the games. They responded with what turned out to be our biggest win, 9-3, and the belief began to return. Then the next week, the Cup against Bradley Stoke Utd of the first division. Joby was welcomed back in goal and Andy was welcomed into the team! Suddenly for the first time we had two subs, and the options to rest the players and do more than just shuffle the same 11 if we needed changes. We had a run of ten games, winning nine & drawing one. Sadly we lost Chilly to Rugby during this time, but his last game was Kallan's first, and numbers maintained.*

*This fantastic run brought us from ninth out of eleven, to top of the League, and the verge of the first division. We needed to win three from our last four, but against three of our closest challengers, and sadly I feel that our legs finally gave way. We only lost one game in that run-in, but the two draws were enough to cost us the title.*

*Regardless of that, I am still proud to be Runners-Up. We have lost the least number of games in our division, which after the first five games is incredible. The young men of our team have shown tremendous spirit and resilience, and I am proud to be able to call them my players.*