



FRY CLUB COLTS

U13 MATCH REPORT U13

Number 01

Individually, we are one drop. Together we are an ocean.

Saturday 22nd August 2009

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And so to the first game of what promises to be our most challenging season. Over the Summer we had seen many changes. Chilly, Spike, Andy, Dan, Kallan & Joe had all moved on, and with Dan going, so went Dave, and we wish them all the very best of luck with their new teams. In had come Dave Gooding as Assistant Manager, and to date, Brandon, Bryn, Callum, Charlie & Reece. Myles was playing with a view to signing, and with players still on holiday, Matt Long made his annual appearance for us as well as Ben Clapp (Clappy) and Dan Kendall, both from the recently dissolved U14's. We agreed to play four quarters of 20 minutes to allow more opportunities to discuss the various points of the game.

The line up was:

Joby
 Aaron Brandon Reece
 Charlie Sam Josh Matt Max
 Myles Tom

Substitutes: Clappy & Dan

Early on in the game and a goal-kick by their 'keeper came to Tom. He pushed wide with it and then passed inside, playing Sam in, however he was on his left foot, and in trying to get it onto his right foot, he allowed the 'keeper time to close him down, and a defender get there as well and the chance went. Another goal-kick just skimmed Clappy's head, but came to Dan and he played a first-time ball wide over the top to the right and Tom took it on the turn and shot, however the 'keeper made a great save to push it for a corner. Reece took a throw to Matt who returned it, and Reece then chipped it with his right foot to Tom, who went one-two with Sam, was through on the left, but his shot

flashed across the face of the goal. Charlie won it in defence and chipped it inwards to Tom, who chested it back for Charlie to run onto, and he dinked a ball over the top as we charged forward. Their defender headed it down and hit one over the top for their attacker to run through. Joby was quickly off of his line, and the forward went for a hurried lob, and we were relieved to watch it roll wide of the post.

QUARTER-TIME: W/CRUSADERS 0 FRY 0

With each new quarter, I decided to try different players in different positions, with just a few exceptions.

The line up was:

Joby
 Clappy Brandon Aaron
 Josh Sam Dan Matt Max
 Myles Tom

Substitutes: Charlie & Reece

Early in to the session, Max developed breathing problems and had to come off, but was able to recover for half-time. A ball forward by Aaron was flicked on to Matt. Matt laid it back to Reece who chipped for Tom in the middle to turn and shoot, but it was saved. Their 'keeper went for a drop kick, the bounce was missed but Aaron calmly headed it back to Joby whilst under pressure. We gave away a free kick wide right. It was played sideways for a player to control and shoot, but Joby was able to hold it above his head. Dan & Tom then combined well down the right, which resulted in the shot which the 'keeper held well. Reece played a lovely ball out of defence to **Matt**. He ran down the left, beating the defender and going for an acute angle chip. The 'keeper got his fingertips to it, but it wasn't enough, and the ball bounce in **0-1**. Reece played it inside to Brandon who returned the favour. Reece then passed down the line for Matt, who went one-two with Tom and then crossed it enticingly into the middle, where Myles steamed in, just ahead of the 'keeper with

a deft flick, and we watched it roll agonisingly slowly towards goal, but a defender got back and cleared it off of the line. We then won a corner which was headed goal-wards but was cleared down their left. Matt chased back and forced a throw, but in doing so pulled a muscle in his leg, and that was his game effectively ended. At this point Dan had also had to go off. This was his first game since breaking his collarbone at our tournament in May, and so he was struggling for fitness. 11 fit players meant we hoped for no more injuries! We misjudged another ball over the top and Joby had to be out quickly to force an early shot, which flew wide. They had one more chance in the half, and again Joby was out quickly with a great save.

HALF-TIME: W/CRUSADERS 0 FRY'S 1

The line up was:

Joby
 Clappy Brandon Reece
 Josh Sam Charlie Dan Max
 Myles Tom

Substitutes: Aaron & Matt

They liked the ball over the top, and their player had enough pace to get ahead of Reece, however Joby stormed out, forced the player to try to beat him, and in doing so, gave Reece time to get goal-side and clear it up. Brandon won the ball and laid it off for Reece to hit over the top for Sam to run in on. With a defender closing Sam ran across him to get his body in the way, but actually went a bit too far, and was unable to get back on track with the ball and the 'keeper just got there. Max won the ball in defence and played it back to Reece. Reece beat his player and passed back to Max, before coming out from defence to receive it back, before playing down the line for Max's third touch. His pass through the legs found Tom in on goal. The 'keeper came out and made a great save and the ricocheted across into the middle outside of the area to where Sam was running in, and his first-time shot was cleared off of the line. It bounced upwards and Josh came running in, taking it on his chest, and as it dropped for a shot, Myles took a shot instead, but it went just wide of the right post. They played a brilliant passage of passing and were suddenly in the area with a bit of space. The shot seemed destined for the bottom right, but Joby dived down really well and got his hand strongly to it to push it wide. Tom battled on the half-way line and beat two players before laying it in for Clappy, but their 'keeper really was quick off of his line and got there just ahead of him.

3 QUARTER-TIME: W/CRUSADERS 0 FRY'S 1

The line up was:

Joby
 Dan Brandon Reece
 Josh Sam Clappy Aaron Max
 Myles Charlie

Substitutes: Tom & Matt

We won a corner, so all of the usual players went up for it, but it was headed clear and the break was on. Dan made two challenges, slowing them down before a shot was well saved by Joby. It was bouncing in the left of the area so their attacker took a swing at it, and luckily couldn't get his foot over it enough, and it rebounded off of the crossbar before we cleared it. They put pressure on our right back area before crossing it in. Reece challenged their attacker, but it broke for them to just flick past Joby 1-1. After a bit of a melee in their area it came out to Charlie on the right, who hit with his left across goal, but their 'keeper dived full length to push it out.

FULL-TIME: W/CRUSADERS 1 FRY'S 1

Man of the Match – Chosen by Chris Clapp for excellent play and effort – **Brandon Thomas**

Afterthoughts.....

I found out during the game that these play in the first division locally, and in the same league as Portishead Juniors, and had come fourth last season and Cup Runners-Up. We had also met them a few times in the 6's, so we knew they were a good team and would give us a hard game.

We changed the team for every quarter, then brought on the subs halfway through each quarter, and so it's difficult to have too many insights, as the players had to cope with that before they could get going. Near the end as players started to tire, we'd charge forward, and then not get back, leaving the defence a bit isolated at times, and they exploited the gaps very well, attacking into those spaces and getting behind us. It made for very big gaps in the pitch, which wasn't conducive to short passing play, and we had to result to a few hopeful long balls, something that will be pounced upon by opposition teams this season. Fitness will hopefully solve that partially, however disciplined play is what the players need to remember, especially as minds start to tire and the clock runs down.

Our biggest problem was caused by Josh however. He went for a dark blue dye for the hair, but it turned out black, and that I feel ultimately cost us the win!