



FRY CLUB COLTS

U14 MATCH REPORT U14

Number 15 I know you're looking for a ruby in a mountain of rocks. Sunday 14th November 2010

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Everyone was available for this game, however Bitton's pitch was not. With some last minute rearranging we were able to get the game switched and reverse the fixture.

The line up was:

Declan
Josh Aaron Reece Joel
Bryn Sam Tom Max
Lorenzo Callum

Substitute: Noah & Charlie

We started the game strongly, closing the Bitton players down and forcing them to concede a corner out on the left almost straight away. Callum floated it over and **Tom** jumped, back heading it goal-wards after less than a minute **1-0**. Another great ball from Sam saw Lorenzo through, but Mo in goal for them was out quickly to block. Then Callum played Lorenzo in at a narrow angle but again Mo stood tall and blocked. We were running rampant and two more chances were saved by Mo, one a point blank shot pushed over the bar. We couldn't keep this level of pressure up however and Bitton finally came into the game, mainly due to their new signing from Cadbury Heath 'B', the big defender being employed as a central midfielder here. For some reason none of our players seemed to want to go near him and quite a few times players backed out of challenges with him (although we could always rely on Joel not to care as he flew in three times to win the ball). Although the ground was muddy and sticky, Bitton moved it very well and we started to panic in both defence and midfield, leading the sliced clearances putting us under more pressure rather than calmly looking for the pass. Dec was called into action a few times as Bitton started to create chances and twice made two great parries, once that Josh cleared and the other by Reece. Bitton piled more forward and another melee saw Dec save and it fell invitingly on the edge of the box for a shot which was driven in with some venom, however Max flung himself in harm's way and the ball glanced up off of his back, hit the underside of the crossbar, bounced down on the line, and Josh got it clear. Without that deflection they would have had their equaliser. It was not long in coming however as Bitton kept up the pressure and a ball into our box was saved by a diving Dec, but the clearance were sliced

upwards and not fully made, and eventually it dropped invitingly for Joe Hillard and he smashed it home from two yards **1-1**.

HALF-TIME: FRYS 1 BITTON 1

We had a stern talk with our players at half-time, mainly about the fact that we seemed intimidated by their size, something that they shouldn't let worry them, and to be fair the second half was much more even. Bitton soon took the lead however as a passed ball right to Josh saw him step over to get onto his right foot, but he failed to spot Kieran lurking behind him and his cross was heading for a player at the back post, so **Reece** had no choice but to slide in and attempt to clear, but unfortunately he turned it in **1-2**. At this point the referee "requested" that we took off Callum for a period. He had allowed their comments from players and the side-lines to upset him and it helped us as it avoided a red card. We soon had him back on and he swung over a corner from the right and Reece was unmarked at the back post, but headed just the wrong side of the post! The game was very even now as collectively we had finally grown a pair! Into the last ten minutes and a ball over their defence was hit wide to the left, but **Callum** spotted that Mo was quite forward so went for the 25 yard chip, right into the top right corner **2-2**. We were stronger now and I felt that barring a breakaway, if another goal came it would be us, however as we entered the last minute the game seemed to be heading for a draw. With one last surge Tom and Bryn combined on the right to chip the ball to **Lorenzo** on the edge of the box with his back to goal. He spun so quickly that the defenders were still too far away, and with very little back-lift, he hammered the ball over Mo's head before he could really react and sealed the victory **3-2**.

FULL-TIME: FRYS 3 BITTON 2

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

Afterthoughts.....

I had no hesitation in giving Max & Joel the Man of the Match award. Everyone played their part, but it was the fighting spirit from two of the smallest players on the pitch, especially when facing some very big opposition that for me ultimately set the standard that the rest grew into. The second half was excellent. We battled and passed and never stopped creating chances, something that for 20 minutes in the first half we did. But a game is 70 minutes, not 20, so I won't be too critical. A hard fought win against a very good opposition. Well done.