



FRY CLUB COLTS

U8 MATCH REPORT U8

Number 1 - **Everything that kills me makes me feel alive** - Sunday 6th September 2015

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CHEW VALLEY COLTS
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The very first match of the new season. This one promised the hope of improvement, as we were looking to face teams who had mauled us in our formative year, and to see if we had improved, and if so, by how much? Adam had dropped to his proper age group within Frys, Kruz had gone to Keynsham as all of his brothers also played there and it made it easier logistically for his family, and Ollie had left to consider other sporting options. In had come Finlay McGuinness from Keynsham and Finley Wilson from Imperial U9's where he trained with his older brother. We challenged the players to try to pass more, and certainly whenever they could. Missing from this match was Tristen.

The Game 1 line-up was:

Keanu

Cory Bartus

Aran Bradley W

Substitutes: Ethem, Liam & Finley

All four players were looking to pass the ball, just as we had asked them which was brilliant to witness. Twice Chew Valley worked through and forced Keanu into two great saves, however on the plus side we were creating space, looking for our players and generally doing exactly we had asked. We then had the breakaway and Aran was through, however the 'keeper was quickly out and made the save at his feet. Aran was set through twice and first crossed the ball for Bartus' run but he was tackled, and the second time the 'keeper just got there. Once or twice

more they worked through, but Keanu made the saves, but I cannot express enough just how well they were playing, and as we had requested. Ethem hit a corner across and Liam ran across it rather than hit first time, so charged after it to keep it in, and in doing so left them space to charge towards goal, fortunately Bartus and Ethem raced back to defend. We were out to the left, and a throw from them caught us slightly out of position and a free player in the middle gave Keanu no chance **0-1**. From the kick off Ethem ran through everyone and shot, which was well saved by the 'keeper, and then Liam won it back and found Bartus whose shot was into the side netting. We were passing forward and lost it, so Ethem slowed them down, and then Liam slid in with a perfectly timed block as they shot. We were still over-committing numbers, and we lost it on one such occasion with two players in to make sure **0-2**. Ethem was on his own as they blasted it forward, however his control let him down, and a charging Chew player nipped in to score **0-3**.

HALF-TIME: FRYS 0 CHEW VALLEY 3

Keanu's roll out came to Liam who forced his way past a player and ran all the way up the pitch, but shot just the wrong side of the post. Cory passed wide to Liam who ran all the way and crossed, but it was just missed by Cory. We kept the pressure on and Liam won it and passed wide to **Aran** who turned back inside and then beat the 'keeper to score our first goal of the season **1-3**. Liam then won it again and fed Aran who got in front of their big defender, but the defender slid in just in time to concede a corner. Bradley tackled well and passed it to Cory, and he found Aran, who slipped it through for Liam, but he was just outmuscled as he tried to shoot. Aran ran through two players, all the way to their goal, but was just muscled out as he went to shoot. Then we charged forwards and we were all out of position as they broke, and as Finley charged back, Keanu was out quickly to make

the save. All four flew forwards again keeping up pressure and after a melee it came to Bartus and his shot hit the outside of the post and then they attacked with just Ethem getting back and Keanu's kick clear fell nicely to another attacker and he made sure **1-4**. A big throw by Ethem sent Aran through, but he was just guided the wrong side of the post. Another throw from Ethem sent Bartus threw, but his shot was deflected onto the outside of the post for a corner. From defending we broke and Aran found **Bartus** with a pass and he persisted against the last defender and 'keeper, and he managed to squeeze it in **2-4**.

FULL-TIME: FRY'S 2 CHEW VALLEY 4

Man of the Match – Chosen by Andy for excellent play and effort – **Bartus**

The Game 2 line-up was:

Kaylum (Bradley G)

Tyler Bradley G

Finlay M Charlie

Substitutes: Finlay W, Aaron & James

We were on the halfway line and ran forwards, so that when we lost it a long ball saw a player through, and despite Kaylum's great dive, he couldn't stop the shot **0-1**. Too many of our players were running forwards and leaving us exposed at the back. A corner came in and we didn't close down the attacker and the shot flew in **0-2**. A long drop-kick from their 'keeper went over all of our team and their attacker had a clear run at goal, and he scored **0-3**. I was telling the Chew Assistant how their criticism of our long ball last year led to us cutting out the drop-kick, only for them to employ it, and as I was doing so, they repeated the trick **0-4**. A corner flew in and Kaylum was distracted so it hit his thigh and deflected in **0-5**. James lost the ball and they were away and Aaron turned the wrong way and their attacker gratefully accepted the gap **0-6**. We attacked and James hit the ball with the outside of his foot, striking it perfectly, however it hit the post and went out. They were through and Kaylum blocked at their feet, and then they attacked again, this time Kaylum making a great save.

HALF-TIME: FRY'S 0 CHEW VALLEY 6

They were attacking and all five of our players were in our area looking to block any way to goal and Bradley got his hands to it, but it came loose

so Finn M and Charlie flung themselves in the way of the ball. Their long ball was met by Bradley coming out and he cleared long (shot?) and it hit the defender's legs, deflecting it past the 'keeper, however it hit the post and rolled back into his arms. We then broke away with Charlie and he found Kaylum who was forced wide around the 'keeper and he passed for the open net just for a Chew Valley defender to slide back and clear it off of the line. Then they were through and Bradley's clearance hit Finn M in the stomach and fell for a Chew Valley attacker, but Bradley made a great save. We attacked and lost the ball for them to be away. Bradley started to come out, however James had chased back really well and slid in to clear for a corner. A ball to James saw him turn towards our goal, however he was dispossessed and the shot flew through Bradley's legs **0-7**. From a corner we cleared and both Aaron and James were through, but their 'keeper was quickly out and dived on it bravely. Near the end and Bradley was called upon one more time with a brave save.

FULL-TIME: FRY'S 0 CHEW VALLEY 7

Man of the Match – Chosen by Andy for excellent play and effort – **Bradley**

OVERALL: FRY'S 2 CHEW VALLEY 11

Afterthoughts.....

The first game was simply exceptional. Before it started we had challenged the players not never simply kick the ball away, but to try to pass the ball, or at least try to keep possession by beating the player, and they were outstanding, much of which was why there was very little match report, I was simply engrossed by the display by the whole team! The second team to play were not quite able to attain the heights that the first match had, with ball kicked away a few times, but certainly nowhere near as many times as we had seen last season, and they rallied well in the second half. If we can keep this up, then it bodes well for the coming season.

I was however very disappointed by Chew Valley's constant long ball out by their 'keeper. It really had been the game last season where they sounded very critical of our use of the drop kick, that made up my mind that we should not use it, but to play the right way whatever the situation, and then we face them a year later and find that they are playing route one football whenever possible! I believe that our way will lead to better footballers in the longer term, and more success through it.