Number 11 - Just prayed to a God that I don't believe in - Sunday 6th December 2015

U8 MATCH REPORT U8 MATCH REPORT HANHAM ATHLETIC V FRY CLUB COLTS

U8 MATCH REPORT U8 MATCH REPORT

We traipsed over to Dundridge Farm Playing Fields to play Hanham. Last year in another early match we had lost 15-7 to these, had we improved? Missing from this game were Finley Wilson, Bartus, Bradley W, James & Aran. Also, we realised that this match was taking place on a seven-a-side pitch, and to cap it off, the grass had not been cut for guite a while.

The Game 1 line-up was:

Bradley G

Cory Tristen

Keanu Tyler

Substitutes: Liam & Aaron

Hanham were passing the ball around very well and we were chasing shadows quite a lot in the early minutes. They worked it forwards really well and got it to their big lad who leathered a high shot, and Bradley was at full stretch to parry it high above his head. Keanu conceded a free kick which we did well to block, however it fell to a Hanham player who shot high again, and this time it was too far above Bradley 1-0. Keanu was then played through and he ran all the way to goal, holding off their defenders, but his shot was wide. Liam was fouled and so play stopped, however Cory was ahead in space so we shouted for a quick kick which he took, but unfortunately the combination of a very long pitch and a fast defender saw their player get back and win the ball before Cory could get his shot away. By this stage we were just not passing the ball, maybe it was the long grass or maybe we were still to

get going, however we were tackled near our area and they shot for the far corner, and although Bradley got across and got his toes to it, it wasn't enough **2-0**. A Hanham ball through saw Bradley rush out and just get there in time. Liam then broke forwards and was fouled, however his shot was too far out. We had a throw but no player was forwards so Tyler ran, won the ball and got all the way to goal only to be muscled off of the ball by their big defender. We were defending and Keanu came across really well as their big lad came charging through. Liam then won it halfway and attacked, past their last defender and chipped it past the 'keeper **2-1**. Hanham responded by pouring forwards and a high shot was caught well by Bradley and then Liam was away from his ball out, midway in our half and he ran all the way, and although Tyler matched him with a supporting run, he went for it himself from a narrow angle **2-2**.

HALF-TIME: HANHAM 2 FRYS 2

We were passing it around well, but one pass went astray and they got it and very quickly hit a low shot which evaded Bradley **3-2**. A great ball through for Keanu saw him determined in his run, but out manoeuvred by two defenders. They kept the pressure on and although Cory made one block, he was unable to stop the next and it flew high past Bradley 4-2. They had a free kick which their big lad took, Bradley palming it wide for a corner which we won back, Aaron passing to Tristen and he onto Cory who shot, saw it saved and back, but again saved. We cased them into their corner and won it, which was then crossed for Aaron who had a shot, but it was blocked. Hanham were then away, but Keanu raced across and was strong, winning the ball back and averting the danger and getting the ball to Tyler, who in turn played it forwards to Liam, and he shot, unfortunately wide. For some unknown reason, as soon as their big player gets the ball, all four

of our players seem to gravitate towards him leaving their attacker unmarked, and a ball through set him away and he calmly slotted it past Bradley **5-2**. A lovely ball forwards from Tyler to Liam was intercepted and two players were in on Bradley, however he charged out, got a toe to it and just did enough to protect his goal. A drop-kick out came to Aaron, however he was tackled and they were in, with a delicate chip beating Bradley **6-2**.

FULL-TIME: HANHAM 6 FRYS 2

Man of the Match – Chosen by Andy for excellent tackling and effort – Keanu

The Game 2 line-up was:

Cory

Finlay M Charlie

Finlay Willsteed Ethem

Substitutes: Kaylum & Bradley G

From the kick-off Ethem passed to **Finn W** and

he was off on a run, through and past any player that challenged him before calmly placing it past their 'keeper **0-1**. Ethem then broke away with defenders trailing him, however this time the shot was well saved. Ethem was then away and brought down, but his resulting shot was saved by the knees of the 'keeper. Finn W then broke away again, but this time the 'keeper was equal to it, pushing it wide so Finn went after it and crossed it in, however again the 'keeper was able to save. Charlie was then defending, turned his attacker and strode forwards, only for Ethem to take it off of him and then stop! Charlie threw and both Finn M and Bradley were after it, Finn getting there first but just shooting wide. Charlie threw over three of their players and Bradley was away, and whilst holding off their defenders he was able to hook it up and over their 'keeper **0-2**. Hanham then broke away, however Cory raced out and did enough to force them wide. A nice ball forwards from Charlie saw Bradley and Kaylum chase with Bradley taking it down the line wide, but he composed himself and his cross was perfect for Kaylum to control and power past the 'keeper 0-3. They attacked and Finn W stood up well, slowing them down, and then Corv charged at them, slowing them more, and those delays allowed Kaylum and Bradley time to get back, and that combination was able to clear the danger. Bradley then threw for Kaylum to run at goal, however his shot lacked power.

HALF-TIME: HANHAM 0 FRYS 3

From kick-off Ethem ran all the way through them just as Finn had in the first half, but he was unable to finish with a shot. They then attacked, we defended and cleared, after which we advanced, however one of their players stayed goal-hanging three yards from goal, and when the ball deflected back over us, it came to him, unmarked, and he had time to control turn and shoot, despite Cory's best efforts 1-3. Ethem and Finn W piled forwards, Finn getting there first and shooting, the ball half-saved by the 'keeper, and he was able to spin and grab it before it crossed the line. The ball came wide to Charlie and he controlled it, ran forwards past a player and crossed it and **Ethem** got it and ran down the left before cutting in and flicking the ball past the 'keeper into the bottom right 1-4. Under pressure we tried to clear it and it hit Finn M in the head, came down so Bradlev tried to clear it and it hit another player of ours in the head, fell nicely for Hanham and they scored via two deflections **2-4**. A throw from Charlie saw Bradley swing and shoot, but he was too far away. A poor kick out from Hanham came wide to **Kaylum**, and he attacked and looped a high shot from wide over the 'keeper 2-5. Hanham then broke away, and no one was back and the attacker flicked it over Corv **3-5**. From our kick we pass around in our half, but get in each other's way and lose the ball, the Hanham attacker capitalising 4-5. From the kick-off Bradley beat a player and passed through their defence for Kaylum, and he scored, a simple pass for a simple goal **4-6**. We were defending and Bradley won the ball and was off, going through three consecutive tackles, and although pushed wide, he beat the 'keeper from guite a narrow angle 4-7. Cory played the ball out to Ethem, and he passed across to Finn W, and passed forwards to Kaylum who slipped it on for Bradley who hit it high past the 'keeper 4-8. We over-committed and they were away with a ball to our back post, but Cory got there and made the vital save.

FULL-TIME: HANHAM 4 FRYS 8

Man of the Match – Chosen by Andy for excellent play and effort – Finn M

OVERALL: HANHAM 10 FRYS 10

Afterthoughts.....

What a great match. The Blue's were unlucky to concede the last few and the Red's rallied brilliantly. Sadly, afterwards Aaron announced that he was leaving and Finn Wilson confirmed the same later that evening, they will both be missed.