



# FRY CLUB COLTS

## U9 MATCH REPORT U9

Number 6 - The difficulty of tactical manoeuvring consists in turning the devious into the direct, and misfortune into gain - Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2016

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**DOWNEND SAINTS**  
**V**  
**FRY CLUB COLTS**  
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For our first ever final we travelled to play Downend Saints. We arrived with all 16 players available for the first time this season meaning each team had a substitute. It was sunny, crisp autumn morning, the pitch was in good condition but on the small side with confirmation later that it is the pitch that is also used for their 5 aside games for the younger age groups.

The Game 1 line-up was:

	Alfie	
Tristen	Tyler	Finn M
James	Aran	Keanu

Substitute: Bartek

The game started at a frantic pace with both sides trying to get a foothold into the game, some strong defending from Tristen prevented an attack and he also managed to find James in space who went for a run down the right-hand side. He beat his player and hit a good shot that looked to be heading towards the top corner only for the goal-keeper to calmly catch the ball. Their 'keeper was very tall and she looked a very good 'keeper. The 'keeper kicked long, which would be a tactic they used on the small pitch, and it bounced into our half and the striker got to the ball just before Finn and cut inside and hit a low powerful shot that Alfie did well to tip around the corner. From the corner, we defended well with Tyler getting a good block; the deflection came to Aran who jinked his way past two players before cutting the ball to Keanu who shot first time, the 'keeper making another good save. Downend were passing the ball well and have a couple of very good players who we were struggling to contain and only some last-ditch tackles and good saves from Alfie kept them at bay. Alfie rolled the ball to Tyler who found James in space. James battled well to the edge of the area and cut the ball back to Bartek, however a strong tackle from the defender prevented Bartek getting a shot away. They broke quickly and the skilful player on their right-hand side went one way then the other before cutting into the corner of our area and hitting a low shot past Alfie to score and give Downend the lead

**1-0.** From the kick-off James and Bartek played the ball around well putting James in the clear and getting a good shot only for the 'keeper to make another great save. From another big kick, we let the ball bounce and it looked for all the world they would score just before half-time but Alfie was quick off his line and forced the striker to shoot well wide. The half ended with us playing some good football out on the left side with Finn and James working well, James cut into the middle and created an opening and hit a shot towards the Downend goal but the 'keeper got behind the ball and held on to the shot.

**HALF-TIME: DOWNEND 1 FRYS 0**

Downend came out all guns blazing in the 2nd half and were playing some very good football and it was not long before their two best outfield players had opened us up to create a wonderful chance that they made no mistake in passing the ball past Alfie **2-0**. Some determined play by Tyler forced his way into their half and he looked for Bartek but the defender got to the ball just before him, they then moved the ball really quickly into our area and only a last-ditch tackle from Tristen prevented them from extending the lead. We were looking for a way back into the game and Aran was busy in midfield and a good pass from him got to Bartek out wide who hit a lovely first time pass back to Aran who hit a great shot that went narrowly over the bar; a very good move that we were unlucky not to score from. They came at us again though and Keanu stood up well to the tricky winger to slow him down but he still managed to cut the ball back to one their players who got a shot on target which Alfie was very unlucky to see slip under him and into the back of the net **3-0**. The boys showed some great character and for the next five minutes we were the dominant side with Tyler working so hard to try to get things going and James who had taken a heavy knock to his foot working hard through the pain to try to get us a goal back, and a good move ended up with Bartek's shot being well saved. Downend, through the pressure we were generating, were defending well and closing us down and forcing us out wide so we could not get a clean shot away. Aran was wide and was well tackled; they then quickly turned defence into attack and had a two on one situation against Finn who did his best but was unable to prevent them shooting hard and low into the bottom corner of our net **4-0**. Not long after kick-off Tyler was on the left-hand side and moved the ball forward to Keanu who powered past a defender and got a shot away which was well blocked but came back to James who looked for the top right hand corner but it just drifted the wrong side of the post as far as the Fry's supporters were concerned.

**FULL-TIME: DOWNEND 4 FRY'S 0**

**Man of the Match – Chosen by Andy for a great performance in defence – Tristen**

The Game 2 line-up was:

Ethem  
Cory Kaylum  
Finn W Brad G Brad W  
Liam

Substitute: Charlie

Downend started the game the stronger and again it was quick to see that they had two good outfield players who combined very well down the left-hand side to create a chance very early on and only a good save from Ethem prevented them from taking the lead. A pass out from Ethem found Cory out wide and he moved the ball up to Brad W who fought hard with a Downend player to come away with the ball and found a pass to Liam who cut inside and shot over the bar. They had the same tactic as the first game, the 'keeper kicked the ball long, and one kick came out to the wide left; they got to the ball just before Kaylum and crossed it into the middle for the attacker to finish really well past Ethem **1-0**. Liam passed the ball to Finn who controlled the ball and passed the ball up the line to Brad G and he cut inside to Liam who beat his player and got a good shot away which the 'keeper did well to save. Charlie got to the ball first and passed out wide to Brad W but the Downend defender was first to the ball and passed the ball into our penalty area. Kaylum got a good block in but the ball came back to the Downend player who hit an unstoppable shot past Ethem **2-0**. We started to get our passing game going with Charlie and Brad G working well in midfield, from our goal-kick Cory found Charlie who waited for the right moment to pass the ball up-field it looked like it was slightly over-hit and that the 'keeper would get to it first but as he was bending down to pick it up **Brad G** nipped in first and took it past the 'keeper and rolled it into the empty net **2-1**. We were now playing some good football and dominating the game, Brad W got the ball out wide and cut in to Charlie who set himself and got a powerful shot towards the goal but a last-ditch deflection from a defender sent the ball behind for a corner. Charlie took a very good corner **Kaylum** bent down to header the ball and it clipped the top of his head hit a defender which deceived the 'keeper and ended up in the back of the net **2-2**. A big kick from their goalkeeper found Cory one on one against their attacker, he waited until the attacker made his move and made a great tackle seeing the ball out to ensure both sides went into the half time break all square.

**HALF-TIME: DOWNEND 2 FRY'S 2**

We were the better side at the start of the 2nd half with some of the passing of the highest standard from all of the boys who tried to look for a player in space every time from defence to attack. A good move starting from Finn who passed to Brad who found Charlie out left. Charlie hit a wonderful first time pass to Liam who created himself some space to shoot which just went wide. We were getting to their big kicks first with Cory reading the game very well and he got to one such kick, passed to

Kaylum who found Charlie in space just inside their penalty box but his shot bounced off the top of the cross bar and over. We earned a throw in on the left hand-side which Charlie took quickly down the line to **Brad G** who was in the penalty box before Downend knew what was going on and he passed the ball past the 'keeper into the net **2-3**. Finn intercepted a pass and found Brad W in space on the right-hand side he beat the defender and crossed where Liam just got to the ball before the defender and got a powerful shot away that went narrowly wide. They made another big kick that Cory got to but the Downend player got to the rebound and was in the clear. Kaylum came across to put him off but he still shot however Ethem got a strong hand to the ball to put it wide for a corner. We reacted first to the corner and Brad G cleared the ball into space in the Downend half. Liam was in a race with the defender to get to the ball which he won; Charlie had got into the middle and was in space but unfortunately Liam could not see him and shot at goal when the angle was against him but it still clipped the post before going wide. With time running out Downend came on the attack and only a good block from Finn prevented the ball entering the penalty area but went behind for a corner, the ref confirmed there were seconds to go and we feared the worst and sure enough from the corner it found one of their players in space in the penalty area who finished well to equalise with the last kick of a very good game of football **3-3**.

**FULL-TIME: DOWNEND 3 FRY'S 3**

**Man of the Match – Chosen by Andy for some wonderful passing and overall great play – Charlie & Brad G**

**OVERALL: DOWNEND 7 FRY'S 3**

**Afterthoughts.....**

*So, we lost the game and all credit to Downend who took their chances well and in both games had a couple of good players who took advantage of the long kicks they could do on a small pitch, but overall I think we were the better footballing side who passed the ball well and showed great character in both games and as we progress we will be the better side. All the boys showed great maturity at the end and not one boy got emotional and all shook the Downend boy's hands and can certainly hold their heads up high; to reach a final is a great achievement. Another positive was from someone who said that it was really nice that all the Adults cheered on every boy whether related to them or not and shows we have the best supporters as well, and going forward win, lose or draw some great friendships and happy memories will be had. Well done all.*

