Number 13 - You have to believe in yourself - Sunday 18th December 2016

U9 MATCH REPORT U9 MATCH REPORT PURNELLS

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Our last game before the Christmas break saw us travel to Purnells who we had heard were a good side; we were missing Aran, Fin W, Keanu and Tyler so we only had seven players for each game and with Purnells playing 25 minutes each way, and on a large pitch, it was going to be interesting to see how the boys coped.

The Game 1 line-up was:

Alfie

Ethem

Cory

Liam Brad G Brad W

Bartek

The game started at frantic pace we attacked first with a nice move down the left-hand side with both Bradleys passing the ball well; a through ball from Bradley G saw Bartek away and he managed to get a shot off which was well saved. Purnells then broke really quickly and with some crisp accurate passing saw one of their number 7's away; he tricked his way past Cory into the edge of the area before hitting a low powerful shot past Alfie 1-0. A nice pass from Liam saw Bradley G in space in the middle. moved it out wide to Bradley W and he in turn worked hard to get to the edge of the area before crossing to where Bartek was in space; he took one touch before beating the 'keeper 1-1. Purnells were proving a handful up front and the passing and movement even for an opposing team was a joy to watch and it was not long before they had carved us open to give them an opportunity to score which they took **2-1**. They were dominating and only some good defending from Cory and Ethem and a wonderful save from Alfie kept the score down but after constant pressure and our midfield struggling to get back Purnells scored two goals in quick

succession to make it 3-1 and 4-1. When we did have the ball and the boys looked to pass it we looked good going forward and a lovely ball from Liam saw Bradley G in the middle of their half. He took a touch, and then beat a defender before drilling a shot past the diving 'keeper 4-2. Regardless of how good our forward thinking players were looking going forwards, they were not helping the boys at the back against a side that passed and moved the ball well; this was demonstrated when Corv was on his own with three attackers! He forced them out wide and then got back to close one attacker but as Alfie came out to help Cory the attacker passed the ball to another forward player who tapped the ball home **5-2**. Not long after they had got into a position and this time only a good tackle from Ethem prevented them from scoring. They were soon attacking and hit a shot from distance that hit Bradley G on the head and went out for a corner. From the corner Bradley W got to the ball first and cleared it, however they reacted quickest and a quick shot saw the ball creep into the far corner 6-2.

HALF-TIME: PURNELLS 6 FRYS 2

They came out for the 2nd half full of confidence and straight from kick-off went right through us to score. **7-2**. A quick pass from Ethem put Bradley W away in space; he beat one man before passing low to Liam who cut inside before striking the ball sweetly into the back of the net. 7-3. This goal seemed to give us some confidence and we were more competitive than we had been in the first half, demonstrated by Liam who tracked back from up front to our corner flag to force the winger to knock the ball out for a goal-kick. They were still playing some great football and a lovely move saw them clear on goal and even though Alfie got a hand to the ball he could not stop it from going in 8-3. Bartek passed the ball out wide to Cory who passed down the wing to Bradley G; he beat two players and shot low past the 'keeper onto the post the ball came back out to a waiting **Liam** who first time put the ball into the empty net 8-4. It was now end to end stuff and was a good game; the play from both sides was nice to watch. They hit a shot from distance which Cory did well to get to but the deflection took it past the stranded Alfie 9-4. It was our turn to attack and a delicate pass from Bartek put Bradley G in the

clear. He put the ball into the area for Liam to get and he cut inside, passed across the goal to Bradley W who waited for the defender to come to him before passing back to Liam who passed the towards the corner of the net only for a good sliding tackle to knock it behind for a corner. **Liam** took the corner; a Purnells player got to it first but could only knock it in the net **9-5**. Purnells were determined to have the last word though and they passed the ball into our area. A crunching tackle from Cory saw the ball go to Ethem but his clearance was blocked and deflected to a player in the open who shot on the turn and it rolled into the net **10-5**.

FULL-TIME: PURNELLS 10 FRYS 5

Man of the Match – Chosen by Andy for trying to get back and help – **Bartek**

The Game 2 line-up was:

Alfie

Tristen Kaylum Finn M

James Jamie Charlie

We started the game well and a good pass from Charlie found Kaylum in space in the middle. Kaylum laid the ball off to James who hit a rasping shot which bounced off of the crossbar and went over. As in the first game Purnells were a very quick side who passed the ball very well and reacted to situations quicker than we did. They took a quick throw in which caught us off guard; Alfie came out to the player with the ball and saved well but the ball deflected to another Purnells player who scored 1-0. We went on the attack and a good run by James down the right took two players out of the game and he crossed the ball to Kaylum who back heeled the ball to Charlie who hit a wondrous shot past the 'keeper into the back of the net 1-1. Purnells were moving the ball around really well and only a good tackle from Tristen prevented them from scoring with the ball going out for a corner. They took a quick corner which we did not react to and left the player with a lot of space in the middle and he made no mistake with a simple finish 2-1. It was attack after attack for Purnells and the boys were chasing shadows a lot of the time; a good tackle though from Finn M who managed to find Charlie who hit a curved searching pass out wide to James who took the ball under his spell with one touch before cutting inside and hitting a low shot that crept the wrong side of the post. Purnells soon were moving with pace up the right-hand side before crossing for a player to hit a bullet of a header past Alfie 3-1. From the kick-off they intercepted a pass from Jamie and went through the middle and blasted the ball past a diving Alfie 4-1. Soon after they made it 5-1. On a rare attack for us a nice pass from Tristen found Charlie out wide and he passed to James just inside their half; he beat one man and hit another bullet of a shot, this one though dipped at the last second to go into the net just below the crossbar 5-2. We were trying to

tackle them and break up their play but they were just that bit quicker faster and stronger than us and they scored two more before half time to make it **6-2** and **7-2**.

HALF-TIME: PURNELLS 7 FRYS 2

The 2nd half was a struggle for the boys and they were defending for much of the half and did not create many clear cut chances as Purnells piled on the pressure and played some really good football that we could not cope with and although some the boys kept going we never looked like stopping them whilst they were in total domination. During the second half they scored another five goals with Alfie also making some wonderful saves to prevent the score being worse.

FULL-TIME: PURNELLS 12 FRYS 2

Man of the Match – Chosen by Andy for never giving up – Charlie

OVERALL: PURNELLS 22 FRYS 7

Afterthoughts.....

This was not the result we were expecting! Sometimes you are going to face a team especially when teams are young and still developing that are quicker, stronger and at the time of the game better than you, and Purnells were a very strong side and would beat most teams if not all teams in Bristol. We always praise the boys when they do well and they normally give their best and try very hard; today though for whatever reason there were a lot of the boys who did not put the effort in and did not help the boys that were trying. This caused us to not pass when we should have done, and when we did pass it was not to a Frys player causing us problems and a lot of the goals that we conceded were from our error, so that side of it we can work on in training to improve and when we play Purnells again it will be much closer. 90% of the time the boys are improving at an amazing rate; an example of this is Charlie who last year would have either been on the floor or walked off. Today he never gave up and worked hard right up until the final whistle; well-done Charlie! This was the first time this has happened this season to us in both games and over the whole of the first half of the season the boys have been amazing getting to their first final and more than holding their own with every team we have played in Bristol so lots to look forward to going into the New Year.