



FRY CLUB COLTS

U9 MATCH REPORT U9

Number 16 - **It is a matter of life and death, a road either to safety or to ruin** - Sunday 22nd January 2017

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We had our first home game since early November. The pitch passed an early morning inspection and on a cold but clear day we welcomed Boco to Somerdale. When we played them away, we lost over the two games by the odd goal. We had never beaten Boco, was today going to be the day for this tough fixture? We were only missing Tyler who had still not got over his chest infection.

The Game 1 line-up was:

Alfie
Cory Finley
James Aran Bradley W
Bartek

Substitute: Tristen

We were first on the attack and forceful run from James saw him get into the Boco half. He passed out wide to Aran who did well to get to the edge of the area before getting in a cracking cross which Bartek managed to get to first. He was under a lot of pressure though and could only guide his shot wide of the post. Boco broke on us very quickly and suddenly Cory had two players to deal with on his own; he did very well to guide them out wide so that when they did shoot it was from a very narrow angle and the ball went well wide. Alfie cleared to Bradley W who powered forward then cut inside before finding James with a fantastic pass! James then made a quick exchange of passes with Aran, the return pass from Aran slightly ahead of James, and so James had to stretch when shooting and the 'keeper saved well. It was end to end stuff and Boco were

attacking, and we kept backing off, not getting any tackles and eventually they shot from the edge of the area. Alfie did well to make the save, the ball came back out and they reacted quickest firing in a shot that thundered in off the underside of the bar **0-1**. They pressured us well and only a good tackle from Finn prevented another shot at our goal. They got the ball out on their right and passed the ball well to get to the area to their big lad who was causing us trouble more with his size and power than skill but like I said he was powerful and hit a rocket of a shot which flew into the net before Alfie could move **0-2**. We were trying to play some good football and a lovely touch from Bartek saw Aran with space to run into which he did with great gusto; he got to the by-line and cut the ball back to Bartek whose shot was well saved. After the wobble where we conceded two goals in a couple of minutes, we were now very composed at the back with Tristen showing great maturity with both his tackling and some excellent distribution: both Cory and Finn making important tackles as well, getting a foot in at the right time on more than one occasion. Before the half time whistle blew, Bradley W went on run down the left side, beating two players with great skill before whipping in a great cross that Bartek did well to deflect goal wards, the 'keeper doing well to make the crucial save.

HALF-TIME: FRY 0 BOCO 2

We were on the front foot from the start of the 2nd half and Bradley was playing very well and a neat bit of skill gave him a yard of space to run into; he got to the edge of the area and hit a low shot towards the far post which the 'keeper did very well to get down and make a very good save. They went for the long ball but Tristen had read the situation well and got to the ball first and calmly found James in the middle of our half and a lovely ball from James from our half to just inside their half found **Aran** who controlled the ball beautifully before pushing the ball past the defender and using his speed to get to the ball first; he was still outside the area but drilled a shot which came off of the post and into the back

of the net, a truly magnificent shot **1-2**. Finn did well to wrestle the ball off of the Boco big lad and then lay the ball into Cory in the middle who hit a long ball up the right-hand side. Bartek and James were working hard near the corner flag on the right side and after a good battle with two Boco defenders James came out with the ball and found **Aran** who from a ridiculously narrow angle smashed the ball into the roof of the Boco net **2-2**. From our corner Boco broke quickly and Tristen was back on his own. He slowed them down and forced them wide to give Cory the chance to get back and get a tackle in to put the ball out for a corner; it was very intelligent defending from Tristen and well worked back by Cory. From the throw in they got to the edge of the area and fired a shot at goal which Alfie did well to deflect the ball upwards and then catch it. As time was running out, we attacked looking for the winner. James had the ball in the middle of the Boco half and with time running out fired a shot towards the Boco goal. It was rising from the second it left James' foot and by the time it got to the goal it soared over the bar to end a good game and a great 2nd half comeback from the boys.

FULL-TIME: FRYs 2 BOCO 2

Man of the Match – Chosen by Andy for being in the right place and the right time and making some crucial tackles – **Finn McGuinness**

The Game 2 line-up was:

Alfie
Ethem Keanu
Kaylum Charlie Finlay
Liam

Substitutes: Bradley G

They were soon on the attack and were passing the ball well in our half. We seemed reluctant to tackle them and they found their way into the penalty box before shooting and only a good save from Alfie prevented them from scoring as he knocked it behind for a corner. They took a short corner which we had not switched on to and then when the cross came in they reacted first and poked the ball behind Alfie into the net **0-1**. A good pass from Kaylum gave Liam the chance to attack the Boco goal; he shot from distance, and it went wide of the post. Boco were playing some quick pass and move football that we were unable to stop and from the edge of the area they hit a low skidding shot which bounced just in front of Alfie and into the net **0-2**. A good bit of play from Charlie saw him get the ball off of a Boco player and take it on a couple of yards before a delightful pass found Bradley just inside the Boco half; a

good touch from Bradley laid the ball off to Liam who ran at the Boco goal, and he looked up and hit a shot which just went over the bar. Boco put us under immense pressure and only some good tackles and last-ditch blocks from Keanu and Bradley prevented any further goals. A quick move though from Boco got to the edge of the area; Finn did well to stop the first attack but had no help and was overwhelmed by two Boco players who managed to get by the penalty area before scoring **0-3**.

HALF-TIME: FRYs 0 BOCO 3

The 2nd half started in a similar fashion to the 1st half and for whatever reason we were not at the races. We were not concentrating, talking to each other, walking around the pitch and not putting the effort into the game and when you are playing a good side like Boco they will punish you, and early in the 2nd half a ball was played through which we should have dealt with but as we were talking to each other the Boco player got to the ball first, ran into the penalty area and shot past Alfie **0-4**. Charlie and Bradley worked an opening and a good ball from Charlie found Bradley in space and he ran to the edge of the area before cutting the ball back to Charlie whose shot was low and hard but well saved by the 'keeper. Boco came at us again and a lovely pass split us open down the middle and the attacker had acres of space to take his time and almost walk the ball into the back of the net **0-5**. Not long after, and with our heads dropped they made another good move which we did not stop and giving Alfie not much protection, they scored again from a shot that Alfie had no chance with **0-6**.

FULL-TIME: FRYs 0 BOCO 6

Man of the Match – Chosen by Andy for never giving up and covering every blade of grass – **Bradley Grinter**

OVERALL: FRYs 2 BOCO 8

Afterthoughts.....

The positive first; Match 1 was a joy to watch; the boys played well and gave 100% in a very even game against a good side. They tried hard, generally kept in position well; the passing could have been a bit quicker but overall was a very good performance. Match 2 was totally different, and when it came to the Man of the Match award there were only four choices we could make. What it made it worse was that it based purely on effort rather than performance. We were seriously considering giving Man of the Match to the inanimate water bottle, which had still put more effort into the day than some of the players! At this age the result is not so important. We want the boys to enjoy football and learn to improve how they play, and to develop as individuals and as a team. In most training sessions and the games, the boys take this on board and have improved, and we as coaches are quick to praise them. Today though for whatever reason they went back 12 months! Hopefully this was a blip, and we move on to the next one.