



FRY CLUB COLTS

U9 MATCH REPORT U9

Number 19 - **Who does not know the evils of war cannot appreciate its benefits** - Sunday 26th February 2017

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We welcomed Ashton to Somerdale for the first time this season, a team we had played regularly the previous two years, each time being a close game. There was no Jamie, but we welcomed Jayden for his first game of the season. Andy was on a scouting trip to Stoke so the four wise men of Paul, Lee, Gaz and Mark took the reins; would the goals flow after last week's 0-0 draw?

The Game 1 line-up was:

Alfie
 Tristen Finnley
 Aran James Tyler
 Jayden

Substitutes: Bartek & Bradley W

With the wind starting to pick up we kicked off with the breeze behind our backs. Aran and James were passing the ball about well in midfield when James saw Jayden had gotten into a little space on the left. He hit a pinpoint pass to Jayden who with one touch took the defender out of the game. He then got to the dead-ball line before cutting the ball back to Bartek who hit a fine first time shot that went narrowly wide. The Ashton 'keeper passed out wide and they worked the ball well down their left side. Jayden came across and was a bit late with his tackle to concede a free kick. They whipped in a good free kick but Tristen had read the situation well and got to the ball first before calmly playing the ball forward to James who took a touch into space and was away and as quick as a flash we turned defence into attack and a great through ball from James saw **Bartek** bearing down on goal; he had the defender snapping at his heels but he used his strength to hold him off and fire a powerful low shot into the bottom right hand corner of the net **1-0**. Aran hunted the ball down like a terrier and got a great tackle in the middle of the pitch before sprinting down the right-hand side. James had followed him and a little inside pass to James gave him the opportunity to cross the ball from the edge of the area to where Bradley had galloped into space,

and he hit a fierce shot which the 'keeper did well to hold. Ashton broke down their right-hand side and some strong defending from Finn slowed them down though they managed to get a shot away from the edge of the area. Tristen did well to get across to the ball and looked to clear it, unfortunately he could only deflect it towards goal and the deflection was enough to give Alfie no chance as it crept into the bottom corner **1-1**. We tried to see if we could get a goal before half time to give us the lead again and some tigerish play from Tyler saw him forcing his way past two players before passing to Aran who passed out wide to Bradley. Bradley jinked past a player before crossing low to the penalty area and James got to the ball but had his back to goal, so he turned on a sixpence before hitting a shot that went high over the 'keeper but high over the bar as well.

HALF-TIME: FRY'S 1 ASHTON 1

With the now brisk wind in our faces, we looked to see if we could go ahead again and a great pass from Bradley saw Aran into space; he made a quick interchange of passes with Tristen before firing a shot clean over the bar. The Ashton 'keeper with the wind behind him decided to start kicking long; the ball bounced into our half before Tristen took control of the situation and got his foot on the ball and passed down the line to Jayden who got bullied off the ball. That player hit a long ball into the area where the attacker got to it before we could react and hit a scorcher of the shot that was destined to hit the net before Alfie sprang into action and got a very strong hand to the ball to put it behind for a corner. A good corner was floated into the box and only a very brave block from Finn prevented them from scoring. The game was becoming a battle with some strong tackles being made by both sides, we were defending very well with the boys getting in the way of shots, getting last ditch tackles in and not giving an inch and when we got the ball we went forward with purpose. Bradley W who was working hard got the ball to the by-line before firing in a low hard cross that Jayden got to first and managed to direct towards goal, but the 'keeper did well to fall on the ball before it crept into the net. Ashton with the wind helping their long kicks were camped in our half for a few minutes but we kept getting in vital touches to stop them having a sight at Alfie's goal and a terrific block from Finn when it looked for all the world, they would score was something Gary Cahill could only imagine making. We broke quickly from the corner with James going on one of his trademark lung-busting runs before squaring the ball to Bartek who had a couple of yards of space to run

into before firing a shot that had the 'keeper scrambling to get to. The 'keeper then drop kicked the ball into our half; Tristen forced them out wide and stuck out a foot when they crossed to knock it behind for corner. They took another good corner, and a mad scramble took place in the penalty area, and we could not get a clean clearance and eventually, with the ball bouncing around like a pinball it fell to their striker who dinked it in from two yards **1-2**. We did not have enough time to get a meaningful attack in before the final whistle blew.

FULL-TIME: FRYS 1 ASHTON 2

Man of the Match – Chosen by Mark for some great play and good energy – **Bradley W**

The Game 2 line-up was:

Ethem
Liam Keanu
Finlay Charlie Cory
Kaylum

Substitutes: Bradley G

We kicked off the game with the wind, which was now blustery behind our backs, on the front foot and a quick pass by Charlie found Finn out wide on the right-hand side. He got a touch on the ball which was enough to put the ball past the defender into a space that he could run into. He got to the ball first and looked up and crossed to where Cory was making up ground like a steam train. Cory got to the ball, composed himself and shot, the 'keeper just managing to get a hand to the ball to make a good save. From the corner, Charlie whipped in a lovely ball and **Kaylum** ducked to get under the ball but this time it flicked his head and flew into the back of the net giving the 'keeper no chance **1-0**. They attacked quickly down the right with some sharp quick passing until they unleashed a rocket of a shot that had Ethem grasping at thin air, but the ball bounced off the post. Keanu was first to react and cleared the ball behind for a corner. From the corner, Liam got to the ball first and played it up field to Bradley who beat one man before finding Charlie who had time to look up and see that Bradley had continued his run and hit a majestic pass to him, Bradley went around one defender before shooting, and even with his boot flying off the 'keeper did well to make a great save, the rebound came to Cory and this time the 'keeper saved for a corner. Liam and Charlie worked a short corner well before Liam hit a low cross into the middle of the box, **Finlay** opened his body up to guide the ball into the back of the net a finish that Ronaldo would have been proud of **2-0**. Some good team work from Charlie and Kaylum saw them come away with the ball in the middle of the pitch and a great pass from Kaylum to Bradley, who had found space on the right, saw **Bradley** gallop past one defender before using his skills to dart between two more defenders and then from the narrowest of angles he placed the ball over the diving 'keeper into the back of the net **3-0**. Ashton looked to get a goal back before half time and a block from Keanu prevented one shot, but the ball came back to the Ashton player who hit a first time shot which Liam got in the way off and cleared down the line. They just managed to get to

it before Finn and broke quickly, shooting from distance which Ethem did well to save.

HALF-TIME: FRYS 3 ASHTON 0

We now had the gale-force winds in our faces for the 2nd half and Ashton were quick to use it to their advantage. A big kick up-field from the 'keeper saw the ball bounce into our penalty area, Keanu did well to react and pass it down the line towards Charlie who got the ball on to Liam who battled well with two defenders before shooting which was well saved by the 'keeper He launched another one into our half and they got to the ball first and after a couple of touches they hit a shot that looked like it was going to dip in only for Ethem to get a hand to it and put it behind for a corner. They fired in a good corner, Bradley got to the ball first and looked to knock the ball behind for another corner, but they managed to keep it in and fire a low shot into the back of the net **3-1**. Ashton were dominating and we were struggling to get out of our half. A good move by Ashton saw them in space; Ethem came out of his goal, but the attacker shot low behind him and towards goal but out of nowhere and quick as flash Cory came across to clear the ball off of the line and behind for a corner. They were attacking at the edge of the area and Keanu tried to get a foot on the ball but only managed to get a touch on the Ashton player who went down giving the ref no option but to give a penalty. They took the penalty confidently blasting the ball past Ethem giving him no chance **3-2**. A good pass from Charlie from the middle of the field found Liam out on the left-hand side and he used all his tricks to beat his marker and drilled a low cross into the middle; Bradley got to the ball and hit a first time shot which he sliced just wide of the post. They kicked the ball long again and Keanu did well to get to the ball but just as he was about to clear it the ball bobbed, and he managed to kick the ball into his own face which took him down! We stopped and they took advantage to get the ball and go around Ethem to equalise **3-3**. We had one more chance to see if we could nick another goal and some clever football from Finn saw him beat one player and run to the dead ball line, from where he cut the ball back across the penalty area to Charlie was running in and hit a shot that soared over the bar.

FULL-TIME: FRYS 3 ASHTON 3

Man of the Match – Chosen by Gaz for a fantastic performance and goal – **Finlay**

OVERALL: FRYS 4 ASHTON 5

Afterthoughts.....

This was a good game of football with both Ashton and ourselves putting in a lot of effort over both matches. Our boys did well and kept going to the end and are as a rule sticking to the positions that they have been given, all of them trying their best. As coaches, we must help them develop their decision making and letting the ball do the work for them. The wind was a big factor in the game and the result could have gone either way. Andy found a player that would give us some height around the pitch; unfortunately, after an age check it was discovered P Crouch was not 8 years old as previously advised so he had to stay with Stoke.