



FRY CLUB COLTS

U9 MATCH REPORT U9

Number 22 - **Do not swallow bait offered by the enemy** - Sunday 26th March 2017

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AEK BOCO
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On a glorious Spring morning, we welcomed AEK Boco (not to be confused with AEK Boco Juniors who we played twice this year in the 'B' Division) to Somerdale for the 3rd and on paper what looked like our toughest game of the group. We had not played this Boco team for over a year and had never beaten them, drawing the last time we played them. For this difficult game, we were without Aran, Tyler, Bartek and Aiden. As it was a Cup game, no player was allowed to play in both games which meant that we called up Daniel from the under 8's to help us. As both teams had won their previous two games it was like a semi-final to see who could make it all the way to the final.

The Game 1 line-up was:

Alfie
 Tristen Finn M
 James Keanu Bradley W
 Daniel

From the kick-off, they were quickly on top passing the ball around and being that split second quicker. A quick move from them saw them get a snapshot away which Alfie did well to save. Alfie laid the ball off to Tristen who fed it down the line to James who battled well past the Boco player before playing Daniel in who did well to get past one player before getting a shot away which the 'keeper saved at his near post. They broke quickly and Finn did well to knock the ball behind for a corner. From the corner, they whipped in a low ball into the middle that they reacted to first and with a sharp first-time finish fired the ball past Alfie into the back of the net **0-1**. This goal gave them another boost in their confidence, and we were struggling to get the ball out of our half, but we were giving 100% and some good blocks and tackles were preventing chances; Alfie was also

on form making a couple of great saves. The pressure though told in the end and a lovely passing move meant that we were chasing shadows and even the brilliance of Alfie could not prevent a shot from three yards out going into the back of the net **0-2**. It was wave after wave of attack from there on, and a good ball out on their right was well defended by Bradley who knocked it behind for a corner. They took a very good corner which they attacked well, and an uncontested powerful header went high into the roof of the net **0-3**. They had more pressure on our goal and Keanu did well to knock the ball behind for another corner. They took a very good corner which they attacked just as well, and another uncontested powerful header went high into the roof of the net; it was an identical goal to the last goal **0-4**. We had one attack before the half ended with James pushing forward and with quick feet going past two players before playing a square ball to Tristen who made a bit of room for himself before shooting, which the 'keeper did well to get down to.

HALF-TIME: FRY S 0 AEK BOCO 4

They were soon on the attack again and made a quick exchange of passes to get the ball to the edge of our area; a great tackle from Finn prevented a shot being released and Keanu then did well under pressure to knock the ball behind for a corner. We defended this corner much better with James getting to the ball first and clearing up-field to Daniel who did well to get to the ball first. He was out muscled though, and they cleared for a throw. Keanu took a quick throw which found James, and he did well to get to the edge of the area where he crossed the ball to where Bradley was rushing to get to, but the ball just beat him to go behind for a goal-kick. They played the ball quickly down their left side and a good ball into the middle found the player in space who finished hard and low past the diving Alfie **0-5**. Alfie played the ball to Finn who went forward a couple of yards before passing to James and he powered down the right side taking two players with him before he looked up and saw Daniel in space and looked to cross the ball to him, but they had got back well and knocked the ball behind for a corner. James whipped in a dangerous cross which came back to Keanu who shifted the ball on to his right foot before unleashing a rocket of a shot that bounced up off the crossbar, then came back down,

hit the crossbar again and bounced behind for a goal kick; the crossbar was shaking for 30 seconds after Keanu's shot had hit it. They were soon on the attack again and Tristen did well to stop them with a well-timed tackle. The ball bounced kindly for them, and they hit a shot on the half volley which Alfie did well to scramble across his goal and make the save.

FULL-TIME: FRYS 0 AEK BOCO 5

Man of the Match – Chosen by Andy for working hard up front and giving 100% – **Daniel**

The Game 2 line-up was:

Ethem
Liam Cory
Kaylum Bradley G Charlie
Finn W

It was clear to see from kick-off that the team which played in the 2nd game had the same principles as the team in the first game in that they closed us down quickly, not giving us much space and tried to move the ball as fast as they could. Ethem rolled the ball out to Cory who played the ball down the wing to Charlie. Their player nipped in before the ball got to Charlie and quickly was away down the wing. Cory came across and got in the way as he crossed the ball to knock it behind for a corner. They took a good corner into the middle of our box, but Liam reacted first and guided the ball out of the area to where Bradley picked it up, turned away from the danger area and played a delightful ball up to Kaylum who won the race to get to the ball with the defender. Kaylum then got to the edge of their area and shot, the ball bouncing just wide of the post. They played a great pass from the middle of their half out to their right side, then the wide player ran at us and we backed off and kept backing off until the player was on the edge of the area where he hit a low shot which Ethem did well to save, but their player in the box was lucky to see the ball come back to him and he finished first time into the back of the net **0-1**. The game was now an end-to-end affair, and if anything, we were beginning to get on top. A great ball from Liam up the line gave Bradley something to run onto; he got to the ball and beat one man, then crossed the ball and Kaylum got there first, but his guided shot was well saved by the 'keeper. They played the ball down the left and a good tackle from Finn prevented them getting into a dangerous area; he then laid the ball off to Liam who cleverly moved it on to Cory who drove forward before finding a pass to Charlie who pushed the ball on to Kaylum. The defender got to the ball first and knocked it out for a throw, but it was a great bit of football from the boys and showed what we are capable of.

HALF-TIME: FRYS 0 AEK BOCO 1

Cory made a good tackle on the left side and then played the ball into Charlie who had seen that Liam had made a run into a good space, played the ball over the Boco defence for Liam to run on-to but between the goalkeeper and defender they managed to see the ball out before Liam could get to it. They played some good football down their left side, but Kaylum had read the situation well and came across and made the interception, then calmly played the ball back to Ethem who on looking up saw Bradley and Liam up-field and decided to kick to them. He got a bit too much on it and with the wind behind it, it bounced into the Boco penalty area and if the 'keeper was not so big would have gone in! As it was the 'keeper made a good save. They came at us again but the boys at the back were standing strong and when they did get a shot away Ethem made a good save. Ethem rolled the ball out to Cory who moved into the middle of our half before making a wonderful pass down the line to Liam who flicked the ball past the defender and was in the clear; he got all the way to the corner flag before cutting inside. **Liam** looked up and looked to cross the ball, the Boco goalie got to the ball first, but it was played with such power that all he could do was deflect the ball into the back of the net **1-1**. Bradley was quick to pressure the Boco player from kick-off and his loose pass was intercepted by Finn who played a great first-time pass to Charlie who in turn played a wonderful cross field ball to Liam, and he chased the ball down before crossing to where Bradley had made up some ground; he shot first time but the 'keeper made a great save. The game became a battle to see who could get the winner but both defences were on top, and no more chances were created before the Ref blew the final whistle.

FULL-TIME: FRYS 1 AEK BOCO 1

Man of the Match – Chosen by Andy for working really hard and never giving up – **Kaylum**

OVERALL: FRYS 1 AEK BOCO 6

Afterthoughts.....

So not the result we wanted but it was always going to be tough, even if we had everyone available, missing four players meant that it was almost mission impossible against a very good team that know what they are doing. They proved that when they all arrived together, and as the coaches were getting organised, they told their players, "You know what to do" and they formed a big circle and started warming up in seconds. In the first game the boys worked so hard and really gave everything, so it was disappointing to concede three goals from corners! Apart from that they played well and kept going to the end. The boys in the 2nd game had the easier game and with a bit more application from a couple of players we could have nicked the victory. Andy gave a special mention to Cory who defended well up against a boy a lot bigger than him, who Boco looked to give the ball to all of the time, but Cory stopped him on every occasion and battled to the final whistle. There were positives to take from the game as both sides improved in the 2nd half and when we play this Boco team again, if all of the boys are there, it will be a lot closer, and we may even nick the win! On to the next match.