



FRY CLUB COLTS

U10 MATCH REPORT U10

Number 7 - **'Sound trumpets! let our bloody colours wave! And either victory, or else a grave.'**
- Sunday 8th October 2017

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The day had arrived; we were playing in our second HML Final after losing to Downend Saints last year, how would we get on this time? We were at home, and we were playing Imperial, who a few weeks earlier had beaten us by the odd goal at their place, so we knew we were in for a tough game, but on Tyler's Birthday, could we win the Cup? For the final all the boys were available, so each side had one sub.

The Game 1 line-up was:

Alfie
Keanu Cory
Kaylum Liam Charlie
Bartek

Substitute: Bradley G

It was a tight, tense start to the game with both sides putting in 100% effort with some crunching tackles and it took a couple of minutes before the first opportunity arose, and it fell to Frys. Some good work by Kaylum down the right side, beating one man before crossing the ball to Liam who was just about to get the ball out from under his feet and strike for goal, when the 'keeper darted off his line to smother the ball just as Liam was about to shoot. The 'keeper went long from the goal kick, Cory managed to get a head to it which found Liam, and he laid the ball off to Charlie who ran into the space before shooting; the ball

just narrowly going wide. Imperial attacked down the middle and a nice ball to the edge of our area stretched Keanu and Cory, Keanu managed to get a foot to the ball, but it went loose, and they shot from distance; the ball bouncing just in front of Alfie who got down well to make a great save. We were passing the ball around well, and a magnificent ball from Charlie found Bradley in the Imperial half; he passed the ball on to Bartek who laid it off to Bradley again, and he shot first time, but it was well saved, the rebound coming back to Bradley and this time the 'keeper pushed the shot around the post. Charlie put in a pin-point corner which found Kaylum who got his knee to the ball which went flying towards goal however one of the Imperial defenders was on the line to clear it, behind for another corner. Charlie hit another great corner and this time Bradley got his head to it, however the ball went wide. There was a battle in midfield with Bradley doing well to get a good tackle in and play the ball out wide to the right to Liam who saw that Bradley had continued his run, so Liam played the ball to **Bradley** who in one movement turned to beat the defender before firing across the goalkeeper and the ball flew in the far corner of the net to give us the lead in the final **1-0**. The goal gave us an added spring to our step and a nice pass from Kaylum found Bartek out wide on the right; he cut inside and wriggled his past two defenders before shooting, the 'keeper getting down well to make a good save.

HALF-TIME: FRY'S 1 IMPERIAL 0

Imperial came out all guns a blazing, trying to get the goal that would put them back level. They won the ball in midfield and from distance hit a shot which Alfie did well to parry up and catch the rebound. Keanu got the ball off of Alfie and passed down the line to Liam who did a little step-over to fool the Imperial player

before passing inside to Bradley who threaded a ball into Imperial box looking for Bartek, however the defender got to the ball first and cleared only to see it come back to Bradley who then shot, the 'keeper diving to his right to make the all-important save. Alfie rolled the ball out to Cory who waited for the Imperial player to come to him before passing up the line to Charlie and he passed inside to Kaylum who looked to return the ball back to Charlie; a defender slid in to intercept the ball but Charlie quickly and played the ball across to the middle to where **Bradley** had acres of space. He went forward a couple of yards and tried his luck from distance; he did not connect with it quite right, the ball bouncing about five yards before the goal. Bartek though had got into the area which confused the 'keeper thinking he would get a touch and the ball went past the 'keeper into the net **2-0**. Imperial were not finished in this game and from a throw they had space in the middle, and from 15 yards out they hit a thunderous shot which Alfie somehow managed to make a save that any keeper in any standard would be proud of, diving high to tip the ball on the crossbar and over; he thoroughly deserved the round of applause he got for the save as it was just as important as a goal at the other end, and he did a little fist-pump as he knew it was a great save. We went on the attack, and it was our turn to shoot from distance with Charlie having an effort with their 'keeper tipping it around the post. Charlie and Cory worked a short corner routine with Cory going past a defender before shooting at the near post, the 'keeper doing well to make another save. We had one more chance to extend the lead for the 2nd game; Liam's shot though just went over the bar.

FULL-TIME: FRY'S 2 IMPERIAL 0

The Game 2 line-up was:

Ethem		
Tristen	Finley	
James	Tyler	Bradley W
Finlay		

Substitute: Aran

Imperial settled into the game quicker than us and were first to any loose ball, and were winning the 50/50 challenges, and it was not long before they had worked an opening. They worked the ball down the right side and got a cross in, and before Tristen could intercept the

ball it dropped nicely to the player waiting in the middle who struck a shot from no more than six yards out. Ethem somehow managed to react and make a great save and managed to hold on to the ball as well. Ethem cleared up-field, but they got to the ball first and came at us in numbers, and we were unable to get a challenge in and from the edge of the area they hit a low shot giving Ethem no chance **0-1**. Imperial sensed that we were nervous and that they were right back in the final; they surged forward and only a last-ditch tackle from Finley prevented them from scoring again. We broke down the left with Bradley cleverly going past one player before chasing his own ball down the wing, and he got a cross in that Aran reached but could only head at the 'keeper. They played the ball into midfield where Tyler did well to win the ball off them; he then guided the ball to James who did a trademark run down the right before cutting in and he was about to shoot when they made a good challenge. The tension was beginning to build as we were struggling to get our game going and we needed a spark and that is what we got from some scrappy play on the left side near the halfway line! James did well to win the ball and then pass it through the eye of a needle to find **Aran** who used his pace and skill to fly towards goal; the 'keeper came out to him, but he calmly looked up before finishing with great skill into the bottom corner **1-1**. The goal seemed to calm us down and suddenly the passing was much better, and we were talking to each other; a great ball from Tyler found Bradley who tried his luck from distance, the ball just going over the bar. Imperial tried to get the goal that would give them the lead at half-time, and a lovely ball from midfield looked like for the world it would find the Striker in the penalty area but from nowhere Tristen intercepted the ball and cleared the danger.

HALF-TIME: FRY'S 1 IMPERIAL 1

We were soon on the attack in the 2nd half with a lovely move down the left with Bradley finding Aran at the edge of the area; he managed to beat two players and was clear in the penalty area, he went for the top corner and only just missed as the ball soared over the bar. They went long from the kick but Finlay was very brave and won the ball and played it to Aran who looked up and passed out wide to **James** who only had one thing on his mind and that was to score and that was what he did, striking the ball as sweet as you could ask to see the ball nestling in the bottom left corner before the 'keeper could even move **2-1**. We were now in

control of the game and a sweeping move which started with Bradley out the left came all the way to Finlay out the right who then crossed the ball into the middle where Tyler was; he shot just wide, but the football was a joy to watch. Bradley got the ball again on the left and again played a great little pass to Aran who drew two defenders to him before slipping the ball to **James** who ran into the box, looked up to see where the 'keeper was before finishing with power and accuracy giving the 'keeper no chance **3-1**. You could see the heads of the Imperial players drop as they could see the cup slipping away from them and a flowing passing move started with Tristen at the back found Tyler in the middle who knew where James was and found him out wide; James ran to the edge of the area, the Imperial defence was split wide open and **Aran** had all the freedom of Manor Road when the ball came, and he took his time to pick his spot and hit past the 'keeper **4-1**. Imperial managed to get into our half which was a rare thing in the 2nd half, and they tried their luck from distance, Ethem making a good save. We were quickly on the attack again and a ball from Bradley found Aran who glided past three Imperial defenders and had the goal at his mercy, and in an act of total unselfishness and great team work, and showing the bond in the team, instead of shooting looked for Tyler to try to give him a goal on his birthday; the angle was tight for Tyler and the shot just went wide. The goalkeeper played the ball out and as they went to clear it the ref blew the whistle for the final time to signal wild celebrations as we had our first trophy won.

FULL-TIME: FRY'S 4 IMPERIAL 1

OVERALL: FRY'S 6 IMPERIAL 0

Player Ratings out of 10

Alfie 10
Some world class saves to keep a clean sheet.

Aran 10
Calmed the nerves with his first goal then pulled the strings. Two goals.

Bartek 10
Worked so hard caused the distraction for the vital 2nd goal.

Bradley G 10
Two well taken goals and ran the midfield. Two goals.

Bradley W 10

Full of tricks and skills also worked back.

Charlie 10
The master passer.

Cory 10
Outstanding in defence.

Ethem 10
Awesome in goal, great character to volunteer.

Finlay 10
Great concentration awesome passing and tackling.

Finley 10
The rock in defence, so solid.

Kaylum 10
Full of energy and great all-round performance.

Keanu 10
No attacker shall pass.

James 10
Worked so hard and took his goals well full of energy. Two goals.

Liam 10
100% effort and great movement and awareness.

Tristen 10
Class in defence.

Tyler 10
A great game from the Birthday boy, and almost a goal.

Afterthoughts.....

What a great day, all the boys were magnificent and produced their best performance in the final and it was wonderful for them to get a win in a final and hopefully it will be a memory that they can cherish for many a year. As coaches we could not be prouder of them, and this is hopefully the first of many. The main thing is for them to develop their football and their social skills and there is a great bond between all of them. Many thanks to the parents and volunteers who helped with the teas and coffees on the day, as a Club between all the teams that played at Manor Road, we managed a profit of over £120. Also thank you to Andy for not only managing the team to victory but organising the food after at the New Inn.