

ROYSTON COLTS 3-4 ROYSTON EAGLES

EAGLES came out on top in a damp derby but only after swinging from the ridiculous to the sublime and back again.

A draw would not have been a totally unfair result although the “away” side had much the better of the second half.

The Colts were more up for the game from the start and were one-up in the game within three minutes in farcical circumstances.

Goalkeeper Marcel launched a huge kick from his hands which surprised the Eagles defence and bounced up and over Jacob McGlynn.

As well as spirit, Colts now had belief and continued to be first to every challenge and every second ball for some time.

Even when man of the match Luca Winterton levelled things up with the first of two sumptuous goals, they wasted no time in making it 2-1 while the Eagles backline claimed a non-existent offside.

Back came Winterton, hitting a sublime right-footed shot from distance which nestled perfectly in the corner of the net.

Eagles were at last starting to compete properly and the game became as good a contest as the damp, muddy conditions would allow.

And then in the last minute of the first half, Kian Harness put them ahead, poking the ball through a crowd of players during a scramble at a corner.

It felt as though the next goal would be crucial and, in the end, it was.

Eagles were awarded a free kick close to the left touchline and Harness struck a perfect curling shot high over the crowded penalty area and into the far corner.

It was no more than he deserved after another performance in which his desire and will to win were an example to his team-mates in difficult moments.

Fair play to Colts, they hit back again within a minute, capitalising on yet more slackness from their opponents and playing in Harry to make it 4-3.

McGlynn made a fantastic triple save to keep the Eagles ahead, the only problem being that his injury added a few minutes of stoppage time.

When Colts had a free kick in a promising position towards the death, the consensus was that an equaliser would be just reward for their industry and commitment.

But it came to nothing and Eagles just made it over the line.

It was a suitably filthy day on which to start a winter league.

So, although it wasn't the performance of champions, it was a step in the right direction.

Team: Jacob McGlynn, Will Hamblin, Oscar Youngman, Cameron King, George Palmer, Kyle Smith, Sean Blois, Logan Downie, Jack Piggott, Kian Harness, Luca Winterton, Owen Maslen, Sam Fage, Max Coutts.