

LGCE ORANGE 1 – 5 RTYFC COLTS

The Colts first game of the new year saw them take on Letchworth GCE Orange this morning in the league cup quarter final. With Division One being totally restructured mid way through the season, there's no doubt that all the remaining league games will be very tough, so to maintain a decent cup run would be a nice little distraction.

This Letchworth side had already dispatched Stortford Swifts in an earlier round of this cup, a team the Colts lost to last season and after very nearly earning a point against Ashwell recently, our opponents could not be under estimated. A good start today would no doubt help to settle any early nerves though and that's exactly what we got. A good little passing move involving four or five Colts players after just one minute resulted in Stan Kitchener threading a ball through to Ed who converted an easy tap in chance to give us an early lead. Before the home team could even compose themselves, Stan Kitchener provided another assist as he played a long through-ball into space for Harry to chase. As the keeper rushed out, Harry was able to beat him to the ball, tap it past the beaten goalie and slot the ball into an open net to give the Colts a dream start. Just three minutes gone, 2 nil up! The Letchworth lads still kept their heads up after a disastrous start and as they settled into the game, it was clear that this was far from done and dusted and they began to create chances of their own. In the eighth minute, a good run from the Orange's forward gave them their first scoring opportunity but his shot was well kept out by an alert Marcel in goal. Moments later, the Oranges came close to scoring again in a dangerous one on one situation and Marcel had to be quick off his line to force the on rushing striker to miss the target. Despite the odd chance coming to Letchworth, the Colts looked in control midway through the first half and any threat from the opposition was being snuffed out by our hard working midfield and defensive back lines. Royston looked more likely to score as the half went on. Stan Kitchener had a shot from distance which was saved on twenty minutes and a minute later Harry was in again. The Colts looked likely to score but Harry didn't spot Jem who had got himself into a great position. He chose to take the shot on himself but the Orange's keeper made a comfortable save. The final chance of the half fell to Ollie who had just been brought on but his one on one chance was parried away by the home keeper and Fred's follow up shot went narrowly wide.

At the beginning of the second half, the Colts looked determined to put this game to bed as they went on wave after wave of attack. Jesse made a strong challenge in midfield two minutes into the half that enabled Ollie to unleash a powerful shot which the home goalie tipped over the bar. Two minutes later, Jem took on the right back and squared a perfect ball to Ollie who scored an easy tap in to extend the Colts lead. If the outcome of this match was still in the balance at three nil up, it certainly wasn't in doubt four minutes later as Stan Kitchener made yet another assist when he played the ball wide to Ollie who drilled home a low driven shot. Four nil! With the game in the bag and confidence now sky high throughout the team, the Colts coaches made several changes. The defence looked solid and the midfield, marshalled by Stan Foster, were in total control which allowed our four pronged attacking line to bomb forward at every opportunity. Freddo fancied his chances of getting on the score sheet fifteen minutes into the second half when he went on a Messi like run from midway into the opposing half. Unfortunately he didn't manage to get his shot away and the keeper snuffed out what could have been a wonder goal as the ball went behind. The resulting corner hit Stan Kitchener's body and almost trickled in but it wasn't to be. Letchworth managed to find some space at the other end with fifteen minutes remaining and they were unlucky not to score as a neat little chip over Marcel bounced just wide. Ten minutes before the end, Harry's run down the right was enough to put the full back off and the loose ball fell to Ollie who converted a lovely shot over the keepers head to complete a great second half hat-trick. Letchworth had the best chances at the end of

the game and they nearly got a consolation goal with five minutes remaining but Alfie's strong challenge halted an attacking move. With the ball still in our box Jack came across to cover and the ball was hoofed out to safety. The home team finally made a break through in the dying moments as the Colts boys seemed to switch off to allow the Oranges forward to pop in a soft goal from close range but as the final whistle sounded, it was the Colts who progressed to the next round.

This was a very solid 5-1 victory in the end and Adam summed up the days procedures by letting the boys know that he thought they had all played very well today. Stan Foster was given the man of the match trophy to take home this week following another very solid performance in midfield. The Colts can now look forward to a league cup semi final which is uncharted territory for this team but on today's performance, and with thirteen goals scored in the last two rounds, no-one would bet against them taking this cup run even further.