

## RTYFC COLTS 2 – 3 LGCE YELLOW

There was a little bit of the unknown about our opponents before this mornings league cup semi final match against Letchworth yellows. We'd somehow managed to avoid playing them in the league so far this season and apart from the distant memories of one pre season friendly defeat when our Colts team were a newly formed side, all we knew about them is that they are a well established, top half, Division One side.

In the first quarter of an hour both teams worked hard to get a foot hold in the game but it was Letchworth who had the first few scoring opportunities. Marcel looked to miss-time an attempt to save a shot after ten minutes but Stan Kitchener was back to cover and cleared the ball to safety. A few minutes later the Yellows came even closer to opening the scoring as the attacking player turned and shot from just outside the box but his shot struck the crossbar and went behind. Marcel was called into action again on fifteen minutes as he had to be quick off his line and stay big to stop a good one on one scoring chance for the visitors but he held his nerve and made a good save which deflected to Stan Kitchener who was able to clear away to safety once again. With everyone holding their nerve and putting in some good tackles at the back and in midfield as the half went on, the Colts enjoyed a good spell of pressure in the latter part of the first half. Stan Foster made a great run into the Letchworth penalty area and nearly created a scoring opportunity but an offside flag put pay to that move. Jem got himself into a good one on one position which almost resulted in a goal but a great tackle on him kept the score line goalless. With half an hour gone Stan Foster took a long throw which found Harry. His cross fell to Ollie who connected well with a shot which could have easily flown in to finish a lovely, direct footballing move but it sailed over the bar. Just as things were starting to look promising at that point, our luck quickly changed for the worse. A well struck Letchworth shot from distance just a minute after Ollie's chance, flew straight into the top corner to put us behind. Within a minute of the restart, the Yellows went on the attack again. Alfie's clearance nearly found our own net but it only resulted in a corner which didn't seem to hurt us at that point. The corner kick that went straight in did hurt though and suddenly, within two minutes of getting a grip on the game, we were two nil down.

As I've mentioned many times before, this Colts team do not give up easily and yet again to their credit they fought their way back into this cup tie. Jesse made a feisty challenge in the middle of the park and the ball broke to Harry who threaded a ball into the path of Jem and with a well hit low shot past the diving keeper, Jem's goal got us back in the game and we went into the break just 1-2 down.

The first real chance of the second half fell to Letchworth ten minutes in when Marcel made a good stop. The loose ball broke to the Yellows forward who looked sure to score but luckily for us, his scuffed shot went well wide. In a complete reversal of the first half, it was Royston who scored next during a spell of Letchworth pressure. A huge kick from the hands of Marcel bounced into the Yellows box and Harry watched it fall kindly for him so with a bit of pressure on the defender and a nice side foot into the net, he was able to equalise. 2-2 .... Game on!

As the last ten minutes approached it would probably be fair to say we'd have been happy to take the game to extra time as the yellows seemed to be enjoying the majority of the possession but on the small home pitch of ours that rarely really seems to give us much of an advantage, we nearly snatched an unlikely winner. Yet another big Marcel kick out fell to Jem who just needed the slightest of touches to guide the ball home but his contact was almost too good and his shot went agonisingly wide. With five minutes remaining the almost inevitable winning blow came from another quality strike that didn't give our keeper a chance of saving and that's how things ended. Colts 2 Letchworth 3.

Adam summarised the mornings events by reminding the Colts that they were only narrowly beaten by a well established, good league One side. He pointed out that we were

still in this tie until the very end and because of that, despite feeling disappointed now, they should all feel proud of the way they have played. Apologies were made to Sonnie who didn't get to come on today but with a leg operation coming up for him very soon, it wasn't a risk worth taking and we all wish Sonnie the best and hope the op goes well.