

RTYFC COLTS 1 v 3 ELSENHAM

In dull, windy conditions, the Colts played host to Elsenham this afternoon, a team we'd not faced in a league match before today.

Royston's first chance came after just three minutes when Fred set up Ollie who's shot went over the bar. Marcel made a comfortable save two minutes later and it was his huge boot out against the wind that set up the next Colts half chance when Harry latched on to the keepers kick but without any real pace on his shot, his effort went wide without troubling the Elsenham keeper. Moments later, Marcel was called into action again as he made a good save to prevent us going one nil down. Fifteen minutes into the match the away team looked sure to score but Jack Thrower made an important goal line clearance. The resulting scramble led to the ball deflecting off the Colts post and away to safety. As the game flowed from end to end, the Colts struggled to get their passing game together playing against a stiff breeze but still had the majority of the first half chances. Jem went close on sixteen minutes when a looping shot just missed the target and Harry's shot lacked power a minute later as he struggled to regain his scoring touch. Just as the Colts were beginning to get on top of the game we conceded a soft goal when a run down the left wing from the Elsenham winger resulted in a harmless looking cross and an easy tap in. One nil. The chances kept coming at both ends and it was still Royston who looked the more threatening as the first half came towards its final stages. Harry got a much better connection on a shot with half an hour gone when a fine strike from just outside the area struck the visitors goal post. Jem had a shot well stopped as his effort found the keepers midriff and Ollie forced another save from the away keeper when he rifled a shot goalwards with just two minutes of the half remaining. When Marcel made another good save in the last minute of the first period to keep the scoreline at one nil to Elsenham, you felt that the Colts were still firm favourites to turn this around as the wind would be behind our backs after the break.

As the second half got going, the Colts piled on the pressure and kept Elsenham pinned in their own half for long spells at a time but failed to capitalise on the possession they were enjoying. Ollie had a shot fizz across goal ten minutes in and his resulting corner was whipped in beautifully with a little assistance from the prevailing wind but no-one was able to get a touch on it to see it home and from that moment things went a little down hill. A rare attack on the Colts goal twenty minutes into the half saw a greens attempt go well wide but two minutes later they were able to shoot from distance and a harmless looking effort from distance somehow found the bottom corner to put us two nil down. To make matters worse, a quick turn and shot from an Elsenham player inside the Colts box just a couple of moments on from the last goal put us three nil down and that was the game out of reach for Royston. We did manage a late consolation goal in the last few minutes as for the third time this season, Marcel scored with a huge kick from his hands that bounced kindly in the opposition area. The opposing keeper made an attempt to save this one but made bit of a hash of his high catch attempt and Marcel notched up his third home goal.

So with the final score being a 1-3 defeat, the Colts are still left looking for their first win of the new Division One Winter season. There's no doubt that the smaller home pitch at Roysia brings no advantage at all to our hard working, Pacey style of play and the only benefit we seem to gain from it is when Marcel has the ball in hand and a favourable wind behind him but it's not all bad news. As Adam pointed out, this was definitely not our best performance and there were the odd mistake today but we never look like getting thrashed by anyone. We continue to play with desire and determination in a league that's probably one step higher than we should really be competing in at this stage and today's result didn't really reflect the overall balance of the game. Well done to Jesse who took the man of the match honours again for another good, hard working performance in midfield.

It's Letchworth away next for the boys. A team we narrowly lost to at home in the league cup semi-final recently but on a bigger playing surface, I think things might just go our way.