

## LGCE YELLOWS 2 – 2 RTYFC COLTS

With the Colts still looking for their first win of the Division One Winter season, this afternoons away fixture at Letchworth looked like a possible opportunity to set that record straight. The home side were short of players and unable to field a full team but such a well-established top flight side could still not be under estimated and with Jem and Jesse unavailable for Royston, this could go either way.

There were very few clear scoring opportunities to reflect upon in the first half but for the majority of the opening half an hour, the Colts kept the home side pegged back in their own half. Despite getting the major share of possession, it was the Colts who conceded the first goal of the match when a quick counter attack down the right hand side lead to a shot from an angle that found its way through the Colts keepers legs. Royston nearly equalised ten minutes later as Harry's cross was met with a left foot volley from Ed that went just wide. So at the break and with just a single goal deficit, Royston would need to show that fighting spirit they've produced on so many occasions to get back in this match.

Five minutes into the second half, the Colts went on a promising attack and the move came to an end as a foul was committed on the edge of the Yellows box. Ed stepped up to take the resulting free kick but his shot struck the wall and the chance was gone. Ollie chanced his luck from range two minutes later and was unlucky not to hit the target with a good shot that narrowly missed as the Colts continued to press. The game began to flow from end to end and as legs became tired, Letchworth nearly extended their lead halfway through the second period but a good reaction save from Marcel followed by another close range stop kept us in this game. Marcel was called upon again moments later as he rushed off his line to halt a good one on one chance for the Yellows. Back up the other end the Colts still believed they could salvage something from this game and they finally got their reward when Ollie found some space on the edge of the Letchworth area and he drilled home a great strike, high into the home team's net to equalise. With seven minutes remaining, the opposition forward broke free and looked sure to score but a crucial challenge from Max Reader put an end to that move. As we went into the final few minutes, the home side broke down the left and a high shot which was probably intended as a cross somehow looped over the whole Royston defence and keeper and nestled into the net and at that point you felt this just wasn't going to be our day but do this team give up? No they don't!

In the last minute, the Colts piled forward in numbers and with a melee of players in the opposition area the ball fell to Harry. He drew back his right foot to shoot but with an obvious audible sound of boot clattering shin pad, he was brought down and the referee was in a perfect position to spot that the defender had taken the player not the ball, and so the penalty was rewarded. Stan Kitchener stepped up to take the crucial spot kick and cool as a cucumber, he held his nerve and levelled the match for the Colts once again. Seconds later the referee blew the final whistle to bring an eventful game to its end.

Unsurprisingly, the person who contested the penalty decision the most was the Yellows coach who also happened to be the person furthest from the incident but I think once he puts his toys back in his pram, he will surely concede that this was a fair result at the end of the day, well officiated by an excellent referee.

Division One football continues to be a huge challenge for these lads but once again that resilient attitude and team spirit shone through today and they came away with another hard earned point.