

## RTYFC COLTS 0 – 0 STOTFOLD GOLDS

Royston Colts faced Stotfold Junior Golds this morning, hoping for a better outcome than the last meeting with Stotfold when we ended up on the wrong end of a three-nil defeat. Playing into a brisk wind in the first half and with four substitutes fewer than our opponents at our disposal today, it was never going to be easy.

Despite not really creating any real scoring opportunities in the first 35 minutes, the Colts worked hard in defence to soak up all the pressure the Golds were applying and the few half chances that fell to Stotfold didn't really trouble the Colts keeper. So against the run of play and battling the elements that were assisting the away side, the boys went into the break with a hard earned goalless scoreline intact.

As the second half got under way, the Colts started to use the prevailing wind to their advantage and began to create the odd scoring opportunity. Harry latched onto a huge Marcel kick five minutes into the half but his shot was easily saved. The boys played some decent passing football as the half progressed and as our corner count mounted up, we were actually starting to look threatening from set pieces. Stan Kitchener floated in a corner from the right that Ollie nearly converted but his header was deflected behind. Stan's follow up corner was also met with a Royston head, Ed this time, but unfortunately it narrowly missed the target. As the Colts continued to press there was always a danger that our opponents were capable of hurting us on the counter attack and with twenty minutes remaining, they finally broke through to create a great chance to take the lead but Marcel was alert to it and made a good stop with his legs. Back up the other end Jem battled well to earn yet another Colts corner. Stan Kitchener whipped in another cracking ball across the face of the Golds goal but no-one was able to get on the end of it.

To their credit, Stotfold done well to keep the scores level against the strong breeze in the second half, the same way the Colts had done in the first half, yet they still tried to attack but with just seconds remaining it looked like Royston would be nicking all three points. Harry broke down the right wing at pace and hit a decent shot over the stranded keepers head and it looked sure to be heading for the back of the net but it bounced once, deflected off the underside of the bar and was cleared away to safety with the last kick of the match.

So as the final whistle sounded, it was honours even at nil nil which on the balance of play over the whole seventy minutes, was probably a fair result. Once again the boys can be proud of another well earned point which was so nearly a win this morning. Andy summed things up by complimenting the team on a good effort and the likes of Fred Foster and Marcel were praised for their excellent contributions. Ed, who came on as sub and quickly fitted in with the pace of the game, battled well down the left hand side and was handed today's man of the match trophy.

To use the same cliché as Andy rightly used, this was definitely a game of two halves but that first Winter league win doesn't look too far away now and I'd even be bold enough to predict that we will, before Christmas, score from a corner set piece!