

## LGCE Orange 1 - 4 RTYFC COLTS

With November just around the corner, it seems hard to believe that the Colts had only played two league games so far this season prior to today's away fixture at Letchworth. Thankfully, our opponents this week were able to field a full, fully fit squad against us this afternoon so with a nice run of weekly matches now scheduled, this would be a great place to really kick start our season.

During the pre match warm up the coaches had a meaningful chat with the boys about some new tactical changes they wanted to implement for this game and those of us listening in hoped the team were taking their new instructions on board.

As the match got under way it was clear that the Colts were having the greater share of possession and trying to play the way they had been asked to and despite things not quite going to plan, we always looked the most likely team to score as the first half went on. Most of the game was played in our opponents half until the 30th minute when suddenly, the Oranges broke away on a rare attacking move and found themselves with a couple of forwards deep inside our penalty area. Despite several attempts to clear the ball the home side somehow managed to convert a scrappy, pinball type move into a goal and to everyone in the Royston camps frustration, we somehow went into the half time team talk one nil down.

From the moment the whistle blew to get the second half under way it was clear that there was only going to be one winner this week. Adam hadn't dragged a big whiteboard to show tactical moves on across three pitches for nothing! Whatever he and Andy had said to the boys at half time and before the game, it had worked a treat. Five minutes into the second half Jem played Harry in for one of those 1 on 1 situations with the keeper he loves and he made amends for his squandered first half opportunity by slotting the ball past the Letchworth keeper to put us on level terms. The whole team seemed to up their game in the second half and the things they were asked to do by the coaches, from back to front, were starting to work. Stan Foster, who bossed the midfield both physically and verbally all afternoon put in a real captains performance and it was he who played Harry in five minutes after the equaliser to give him another goal scoring chance. There was a little more work to do this time as Harry used his pace and strength to muscle off the challenge of a defender before beating the keeper again to put the Colts 2-1 up. So many times we've seen a game slip away from us in a short spell where a strong team scores two or three quick goals to put a game beyond us. Well this week it was our turn to inflict that damage and just two minutes after putting us in front, Harry turned provider by winning a tackle on the left which enabled Jem to get a shot away from the edge of the box and what a gem it was too as he looped a classy lob over the home sides keeper and into the top corner to make it 3-1. Now we were looking very comfortable. The defensive line were playing some composed football and winning tackles to play the midfield in. The midfield worked hard and continued to create chances for the attacking players and with just under ten minutes remaining it was Royston who were to have the final say when Harry completed his hat-trick in style with a peach of a shot from just outside the 18 yard box that curled into the net for 4-1.

This was a great effort from every single player involved today. The coaches praised the boys for listening to the instructions they were given and doing their individual jobs in a very accomplished manner and Stan Foster was awarded the man of the match award for his commanding display and solid ball distribution in midfield.

The Colts sit fourth in Division one tonight, level on points with second place, so they have every reason to feel confident moving forward. It's our table topping friends Royston Eagles up next. No one is naive enough to think that'll be anything other than a very difficult game but one thing is certain, this Colts team will not just roll over and make things easy for anyone!