

Annual Report U14 Colts

At the start of the 2016/17 season the Colts continued to play 11 a side football in a competitive league. The Colts made the decision to move up to Division 1 of the Royston Crow league due to the new look set up of the divisions. Due to the changes last summer in player numbers, it meant the Diamonds team couldn't continue. As a result it was a new look Colts side for the season ahead as the team was equally made up of Colts and Diamonds players.

Due to the changes in player numbers the Colts went into the new season with a very health squad of 18.

Whilst the new look team were going to take a while to settle and get used to playing with each other, the team started the season very well with consecutive victories in their first two league games. The second victory was in the league cup which meant the Colts would progress to the Quarter Finals.

After the first couple of victories the Colts came up against some strong opposition and found very quickly what a steep learning curve it was going to be playing in Division 1. At the start of the season the Division 1 was made up of mixed ability teams which was evident in the Colts results up to the Christmas break as the Colts played in 10 games, winning 5 and losing 5. The high-light of the fixtures prior to Christmas were back to back victories over Hitchin.

During the Christmas break the league made the decision to change the layout of the leagues in order to make it fairer for some of the teams that were struggling in Division 1. As a result of this decision, the Colts found themselves still playing in Division 1 but with 6 of the other best teams in the league. Both coaches and players knew it was going to be a really tough test after the Christmas break, but it was a challenge that everyone was ready for.

This was evident in the first game back after Christmas where the Colts beat a Letchworth Oranges side 5-1 in their league cup quarter final to progress to the semi-finals for the first time. After this victory the Colts played some very difficult games, however the boys continued to work hard and week on week were putting in a very good account of themselves. The determination and hard work paid off when the Colts collected their first point of the winter league season away to Bishop Stortford in early February. This draw saw the Colts go into their next game which was the league cup semi-final with the belief they could win the game and progress to the Final. Unfortunately the result on the day didn't go the Colts way as we lost out narrowly to the odd goal losing 3-2 to Letchworth Yellows.

Despite the disappointment of not being able to reach the cup final the Colts continued to play well and were developing into a difficult team to beat. This was evident in a run of 3 draws together during March and early April which on another day could have lead to victories in at least 2 out of the 3 games. However the Colts didn't have long to wait for a well deserved victory as it came away to Elsenham at the end of April. The Colts side on the day played really well, the best all season and whilst the result finished 1-0, it could have been a lot more if hadn't of been for an excellent performance by the Elsenham goal keeper.

The Colts finished with two very tough league games against Eagles and Ashwell who would go onto finish first and second in the league. Despite how difficult the games were, the Colts managed to score 3 goals against Ashwell on the last game of the season which few teams had managed to do throughout the season.

Within the team this year we had 7 players on the scoresheet which included our goalkeeper Marcel who scored an incredible 3 goals from those long kicks of his. Our striker Harry finished top scorer with

20 goals to his credit. Throughout the season we had some excellent performances from all the boys right the way through the team from goalkeeper to striker. In total the Colts played in 24 league and cup games scoring a total of 50 goals.

As always, a big thank you, to all who have helped over what has been another rewarding campaign. Firstly, to the parents for their dedication and support both home and away as we have been very well supported on the road this year. Secondly, to our sponsors. We were extremely lucky to receive continued sponsorship from **Collins** for the match day kit and from **Aladdin Cleaning** for the all weather jackets. Thirdly, to Simone who continued to be the fixture secretary for both teams at our age group. Simone as ever did an excellent job not only in arranging the fixtures but also communicating with all the parents throughout the season on various matters to do with our age group. Also to Julie who has been the Colts match delegate throughout the season and finally, to Sam, Kerry and Emily for running the refreshment stall at the Colts home games. The money raised will be put towards the new kit for the Colts next season.

And Finally

As we look forward to the 2017-18 season we will continue to play in the Royston Crow League. The squad numbers for next season look good with virtually all of the Colts squad that finished the season, returning for another campaign.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank 3 of the boys who left the Colts squad during the season. Some of the boys had spent a long time at the club but felt it was time take on other challenges so we would like to thank George, Ewan and Morgan for your dedication over the years.

We would also like to thank those U13 players, Ross, Jack and Taylor who played up a year to assist the Colts over the last month or so of the season. All of the boys should be very proud of their performances as they helped the Colts earn league points during the games they were involved with.

Lastly we would just like to say thank you to all the boys for their hard work during the season and we are sure the experiences gained this year will stand them in good stead for the season ahead.

See you next year

Andy & Adam

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