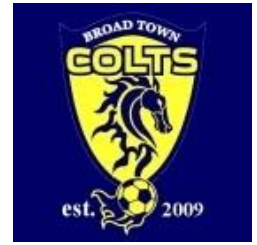




Lambourn Sports



Broad Town Colts



2nd October 2011

The first game of October, and with it, confused birds chirping into beautiful clear blue skies, and warm sun welcoming those who had made the trip to far distant Lambourn to offer up their support to the mighty Broad Town Colts. Sun cream and shorts on an October morning, how very peculiar.

The first half got under way with Broad Town playing down the hillside, with the first five minutes seeing little headway made by either side, as the Colts struggled to shake off the effects of the jet lag from their long journey east. Soon however, a familiar battle rhythm set in, with Cam and Train feeding out to Beefy on the right, and Crossy causing problems for the opposition down the left flank.

Beefy's usual pace was gravity assisted, and repeatedly Lambourn were left chasing shadows, or at least a blue blur, as he rocketed down the wing to provide cross after quality cross into the box. Broad Town were starting to dominate.

Lambourn however, were nothing if not resilient in defence and determined in attack, and their persistence nearly paid off on the quarter of an hour mark when a venomous long range shot forced Nathan into a leaping punched clearance over the bar.

Unfortunately, the Lambourn keeper hadn't read the bit of the script where we score loads of goals, and so for twenty minutes he refused to let the ball cross the line producing a series of fine saves to keep Lambourne in the game.

It was left to Grindle to finally break the stalemate with a cheeky lob over the keepers head following another save and a scrap to gain possession of the loose ball. 1-0 at last. It was a long time coming. As was the return of the happy Welsh wanderer, neatly timed to miss Grumpy's heroics by seconds.

The break gave the boys the opportunity to don crampons and hiking boots, and stock up on Kendal mint cake before facing the uphill slog of the second half.

The ref's whistle blew. I blinked. Lambourn scored. I am reliably informed that the first 5 seconds of the second half went something along the following lines; Lambourn surge forward. A shot. A save parried into the path of the Lambourn number 7. A shot loops agonisingly slowly over the head of the diving Nathan. Goal.

1-1 the score, and with it began a very evenly matched second half, with both sides

enduring periods of sustained pressure.

Our hard worked defence expanded upon their strong showing in the first half, with repeated strong challenges from JD, looking more composed and confident this season, causing the Lambourn attack to stop in it's tracks. Another epic, last gasp challenge from Max the magnificent resulted in him being substituted, as an injury sustained in the first half took a further knock.

Hilly managed to cause problems for Lambourn as an extra man going forward, and then battled back furiously in the absence of Max to provide a headache for the attacking opposition although somewhat surprisingly not for himself, as he seems to have made the Kamikaze header his own, and the higher the ball was falling from, or the harder it was struck, the better.

Sadly, the powers above decided to punish Broad Town, most likely due to Taff daring to go shopping on the Sabbath, and a quick break from Lambourn forced Nathan into a great diving save, only to be beaten once again by Luke, the Lambourn number 7, who reacted quickly to follow up on the loose ball and strike home.

The game ended 2-1 in Lambourn's favour, but with plenty of positives to be taken from the game. Nathan had an excellent game. He was brave, made many excellent saves and was only beaten by one good strike and one lucky bounce.

The defence had a good work out, with JD starting to assert himself more and growing in confidence. Another great captains display from Cam, leading by example and refusing to look down when things aren't going all Broad Towns way. And more time on the field for newcomers George, Liam and Keller, each showing once again that they are more than capable of battling hard for the Colts cause. And let's not forget the physical conditioning gained from an hour running up and down a valley side!

The only thing I can't work out is how we were beaten in the North Wilts league by a team from Berkshire. But then, I don't understand why Israel is allowed in the Eurovision song contest either. It's not easy being me!