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U8 Whites 2006/7



Back Row: Michael, Keiran, Josh, Joey, Antonio, Ben
Front Row: George, Charlie, Evan, Joe, Sean, Tiago

Co-Managers:

John Vesey & Martin O'Brien (both far too old & ugly to appear on the photo!)

RESULTS

After 30 weeks and 17 sets of matches:

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
50*	24	13	10

*only 2 games played in Week 22, third game abandoned due to it hosing down.
Three results from Week 26 to come.

(most recent first)

WEEK 30

28th April 2007 - Waterhall

Won 3 - 0 v Radyr Rangers White

Won 1 - 0 v Danescourt YC

Draw 1 - 1 v Urdd White

Beautiful, sunny, warm morning at the rock-hard sloping pitches next to Fairwater Leisure Centre for what proved to be three very enjoyable matches at the end of the season.

The first match was against a young-ish (U7) Radyr Rangers White side. Some of the lads noticed that they had girls (shock-horror!) in their side. We had much the better of the first half and a brace of goals from George gave us a comfortable half-time lead.

The second half followed the pattern of the first, with lots of pressure from us, although Radyr have to be commended for keeping their shape and defending with great vigour. However, a third goal was always on the cards and Tiago got it from a tap-in after Evan's shot was saved. Further shots from Evan and Ben were just wide and it finished 3 - 0 to us.

Our second match was against the home team, Danescourt YC. This proved to be a close and enjoyable game, both sides attacking at every opportunity and having to work very hard in defence. In this regard Joey was very prominent, tackling well and passing forward when possible. We scored about mid-way through the first half, Michael slotting in from a good pass by Keiran. Both sides had chances to score, Joey coming closest for us with a shot that went just wide.

Kicking uphill in the second half, the game followed the same pattern as in the first half, with lots of good attacking play from both sides. Sean played very well in goal, coming off his line and collecting the ball with great confidence at the feet of our opponents. Closest to goal was Tiago, when one of his shots hit the left-hand post, bounced on the line (yes, Tiago, on the line not over it!) and came back out off the right-hand post. Despite a couple of good shots from Ben, there were no more goals and the match ended with a 1 - 0 win to us.

Next up were Urdd, and what a match with which to end the season - friends and classmates playing for them and always close, well fought games. We were not disappointed!

Kicking downhill we just about had the best of the first half and took a deserved lead about half-way through with a long shot from Tiago which caught their goalie off his line. However, Urdd came right back at us and it was end-to-end stuff after that. We were defending well and it took something special to get through - a long, mazy dribble finished off with a good shot. Great goal for them and 1 - 1 at half-time.

It was back to the wall, Rorke's Drift style, in the second half as Urdd, playing with the slope, piled on the pressure. We were pressed further and further back and never quite managed to clear our lines despite leaving Michael up front to take advantage on the break. There were two incidents which could have changed the result - Josh, playing in goal for us, saved the game with a fine, brave save on his line and their follow-up hit post and went out for a goal-kick. Then, right at the death after more pressure from them, we broke out, passed forward.....Antonio to Evan, Evan to Keiran, Keiran to Michael on the edge of the area....Michael turns and looks certain to score only for their goalie to rush out and slide tackle Michael. Fabulous play from both sides. It finished 1 - 1 which, on the balance of play, left us feeling just a tad lucky. Well played both sides and a great game played in fine spirit. Playground bragging rights even, too!!

WEEK 29

21st April 2007 - Maindy Stadium

Won 1 - 0 v Pentyrch White

Lost 0 - 1 v Thornhill White

Draw 1 - 1 v Maindy Corries Red

Mixed morning for us - the anticipation of playing our mates and great rivals ("The Reds") tempered by our hearing that Joe is in hospital after being taken ill in the week. Get well soon Joe - we missed you today.

First up were Pentyrch Whites and this proved to be the first of three really enjoyable and close games. The first half was even and we were positionally very sound. We didn't make many chances but, to compensate, we didn't let them have any either. Most prominent for us was Ben in goal, catching safely and clearing the ball a good distance from hand on numerous occasions.

We just about had the better of the second half and made some good chances, Joey coming close with one shot followed soon after by Ben just missing a difficult shot at an open goal. The breakthrough finally came after one of our best and most fluent passing moves of the season..... Antonio to Evan, Evan to Joey, Joey scoring from a tight angle on the right. Someone had better tell Joey not to hug the ref when he scores! The half finished with us applying good pressure and we just about deserved the 1 - 0 win.

The second game was against Thornhill Whites, and we were expecting a tough one given that they had just beaten "The Reds" 3 - 1 on the other pitch. But what a start we had, Keiron nearly scoring just a few seconds after the kick-off! Really unlucky with a shot that whistled past the top right-hand corner. Shortly after that Michael went close with a header from a wide angle - again a bit unlucky and almost our first headed goal of the season. However, we certainly didn't have it all our own way and, for us, the first half was characterised by some very brave goal-keeping by Sean at the feet of the opposition. He had no chance with their goal near the end of the first half; the bounce of the ball on a hard pitch caught out the defence and they scored with a well-placed shot from close range. 0 - 1 at half-time.

The second half proved to be just as tight as the first. Antonio saw a lot of the ball in goal but the shots that they had didn't trouble him. His long clearances from hand caused a fair bit of trouble for them at the other end and Michael went particularly close to getting the equaliser. Despite a great effort from all the lads the equaliser didn't come and we lost 0 - 1; couldn't help but feel a little unlucky though!

THE BIG ONE!

Finally - the match that we'd been waiting for all season, after 6 months of training and playing together at BoLS..... time to face "The Reds"!!!

The Reds took to the pitch preferring to wear their shirts inside out rather than wearing our rather smart dayglo pink bibs.

It was no surprise to see two teams that know each other so well get off to an even start, although our busiest player was Michael in goal, who made at least three fine saves from their long-range efforts in a kind of "Edwin van der Sar beat the ball away" style. Effective, though! Indeed, it was Michael's long distance clearances that were causing some trouble at the other end of the pitch and it was from one of these that we scored the opening goal, Joey and Evan combining well in their area to score from close range. Both of them are claiming the goal, so "pistols at dawn" it is!!

The Reds came close with a number of efforts, most notably one that skimmed the top of the bar, but 1 - 0 to us it was at half-time.

The second half had both teams putting in 100% in a fine display of passion and skill so tense that Martin-the-Coach forgot to make any notes! It was end-to-end stuff; the Reds putting us under a lot of pressure but perhaps over-committing to attack and leaving themselves open at the other end. George, in common with everyone else who played in goal today, had a great game and it was his brave saves and good clearances that kept the pressure on at the other end.

Antonio hit the post direct from a corner and Charlie was all over the pitch in his efforts to get the ball for us. Charlie, along with a few other of our boys, took a bit of whack in the tackle but, like all the others, just got up and carried on without fuss. Great stuff and typical of us this season.

Unfortunately, their pressure led to an equalising goal from Alex. It was a well-taken goal and came as a direct result of their flooding forwards in search of the equaliser and out-numbering us. However, after the equaliser they kept piling forwards so leaving themselves open at the back and there were a number of occasions when we had 3 v 2 and 2 v 1 attacks with Josh on the right joining Ben and Keiron whenever he could.

The coaches of both teams had agreed that if it was close, i.e. a draw or less than one goal in it after 10 mins of the second half, then we'd play an extra 5 mins depending upon how hot and tired the lads were. This led to a fair bit of barracking for the ref (me!) as the crowd on the touchline were baying for the final whistle! Enough was enough after 12.5 mins, the last move of the match seeing the ball almost slip through the Reds' goalie's legs for what would have been a perhaps undeserved winner. Not that we'd have refused it!

So there it finished - honours even, more than a fair bit of pride for both teams and a result that would, from our point of view, have been unlikely at the start of the season. Well done lads, you should be very proud of yourselves 😊

WEEK 28

14th April 2007 - no fixtures allocated

WEEK 27

7th April 2007 - Easter weekend - no matches.

WEEK 26

31st March 2007, Blackweir, 10:00am for 10:30am start

v Llanedeyrn Bulldogs
v Radyr Rangers Blue
v Marlborough Sports Black

Report being compiled from shorter than usual notes (if only the WAGs wrote as much as they talked!)

WEEK 25

24th March 2007, Blackweir

Lost 0 - 1 v Urdd
Lost 0 - 2 v Lisvane Panthers Orange
Won 3 - 0 v Lisvane Panthers Black

Looking at the above results it would be easy to assume that we didn't play well. In fact, the contrary was the case - we had structure and everyone stuck to their allotted tasks admirably.

First up were Urdd in another of those "must win matches to ensure bragging rights in the school

playground" scenarios. It proved to be a very competitive and enjoyable match. They scored early on when a defensive lapse saw us over-run inside our own half. For the rest of the first half we more than held our own, Sean playing particularly well on the right and tackling anything that moved! Ben went close with a well-controlled effort from long-range.

Consistent pressure in the second half saw Sean go close with a great shot and Tiago running rings round their defence, but we just could not get that elusive goal that our six efforts on goal deserved. Okay, so we lost 0 - 1, but it was a fine effort and a great match played in fine spirit.

Another hard match was next, this time against a well organised and skillful Lisvane Panthers Orange. They scored a goal in the first half with a well-taken and well-deserved goal on the break but the rest of the half was very even, some fierce tackling by Charlie being most prominent.

In the second half we were defending the goal with the huge puddle and gooey mud in the goalmouth, with Evan between the sticks and he made a brave save at the feet of one their attackers early on. Unfortunately, they scored another goal soon after from close range. However, it was not all one-way traffic and we gave a good account of ourselves at the other end, George going close on a couple of occasions.

In a comedy ending, we would have lost another goal but for the ball getting stuck in the goal-mouth puddle and Evan getting sprayed with mud. Although having lost 0 - 2, the lads came off the pitch howling with laughter - the result didn't matter at all!

Our luck changed in the third match against Lisvane Panthers Black. A goal mid-way through the first half by Evan settled any nerves that the lads may have had, the goal following some nice passing moves which pinned them back in their own half. Ben came particularly close with a great shot and all the lads were involved in some sustained attacking play. Poor Michael playing in our goal looked really bored at half time!

The second half went much the same way as the first, our lads spending much of the time encamped at their end. The second goal was scored by Joey, a long-range shot hit with great power from his position in one of the flower-beds in Nazareth House (or so it seemed!). Cue much celebrating! Not wishing to be outdone, Antonio scored soon after with another long-range effort than went into their goal like an exocet missile. Antonio's mum reminded us that this was his first goal of the season, a fact so unbelievable that it simply couldn't be true..... and it isn't - Antonio scored his one other goal in Week 1!!

WEEK 24

17th March 2007, Ton Yr Ywen School

Won 3 - 0 v Marlborough Sports Red

Won 2 - 0 v Thornhill Green

Lost 0 - 1 v Heath Park Rangers

A lovely sunny (if slightly chilly) morning saw us at Ton Yr Ywen School, where both pitches were easily found this time!

The lay off from the previous week must have done us some good as we set off in fine style against Marlborough Sports Red. Although there were the occasional forays into our territory, most of the first half was played in their's. Some good initial breaks by Tiago went unrewarded before Charlie gave us the lead with a fine long-range shot. A second goal was on the cards and when it came it was one our best all season! Tiago passed the ball down the line to George who whacked it in. It feels good when a plan comes together! 2 - 0 at half time.

The second half followed the pattern of the first, with sustained pressure from us all half. An early goal by Keiron was fair reward. Joey had a couple of sneaky close range shots, one of which brought a fine save from their keeper, before Antonio hit the bar with a thunderous effort from long range. The bar is still rattling as I write this a week later! Further good efforts by Joey and Joe were well saved and the match finished 3 - 0 to us.

Next up were Thornhill Green. An early break by George was saved before sustained pressure brought George his second goal of the day. There followed a series of desperate clearances by them, with an on-fire (not literally!) George going close on a number of occasions. We didn't have it all our own way and Joe made a good clearance towards the end of the half, which finished 1 - 0 to us.

We carried on in the same fine style during the second half and it was beginning to look like we wouldn't score again before Joey hit the back of the net (well, it would have hit it had there been one!) with what was for him a rare goal. The game finished in a well-deserved 2 - 0 win to us.

The third match was against Heath Park Rangers and was one of those games where the lads were keen

to do well as some of their school chums were playing against us.

Unfortunately, we tend not to do so well in these games and so it proved to be this time too.💎 They took an early lead in the first half with a well finished goal, but we didn't help the situation with some uncharacteristically shocking defending - one of our lads (whom I won't name!) passed the ball across our goal area where three of their lads were waiting to pounce 😞

We tried really hard for the rest of the match to get the goal back, but it wasn't to be.💎 Indeed, it would have finished worse than 1 - 0 were it not for one stunning save by George.

WEEK 23

10th March 2007, not allocated any matches.

WEEK 22

3rd March 2007, Morganstown

Draw 0 - 0 v Radyr Rangers

Won 2 - 0 v Marlborough Sports

Next match abandoned due to appalling weather.

I wasn't there and it was impossible for anyone to make notes due to the deluge from the sky.💎 All the lads (and their parents!) deserve great credit for even turning out!!

WEEK 21

24th February 2007, matches cancelled due to weather

WEEK 20

17th February 2007, Maindy Stadium

Draw 0 - 0 v Pentyrch Rangers

Lost 1 - 2 v Ely Rangers

Won 3 - 0 v Thornhill Athletic

Match reports under construction - or, rather, will be if I can find my notes 😞

WEEK 19

10th February 2007, matches cancelled (non-existent snow!)

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