

# Chippenham 1-7 Robins U12 Red

## 11<sup>th</sup> September 2016



**Scorers:**  
Lewis 29, 59  
Sam 34

Will 40, 43  
Sonny 55  
Alan 57

**Player of the Match:**  
Noah Guthrie

We started the new season the same way we ended the last one – playing on a great surface in some lovely weather. And we were hoping for some lovely football to match! We know Chippenham are a well organised side, coached well and looking to play decent football so it promised to be an entertaining game.

The lads were well up for the challenge and all bursting to get the season started – both teams started well, with a few half chances created at either end. Plenty of good play all over the park, some creative attacking play and solid defending, with some firm but fair challenges going in. Sonny, Zak and Teddy were very solid at the back, with Chivs behind marshalling and organising them really well. So for the first 20 minutes or so, while both sides had their chances no-one could quite break the defensive deadlock until Chippenham were the first to unpick the lock with well-taken header from a real gem of a cross, a superb goal, and we guess probably straight off the training ground. Really well worked.

Obviously when you go the first goal down you look to see how the players respond and the lads really couldn't have responded better – no moping, no recriminations, no heads down, just got straight back on with it, kept looking to play the ball around and play good football. It was no more than their efforts deserved when as half time loomed, Chivs found Lewis with a great ball out from the back (super distribution Chivs), Lewis took full advantage and gleefully attacked the space in front of him – the keeper tried to come out and narrow the angle, but Lewis calmly lobbed him to send us into the break level.

The lads were playing well so the half-time team talk was pretty straightforward – keep calm and keep doing what you're doing. We rejigged things a little as well to give Alan more of a free role in CAM (it's a FIFA thing – ask the kids) and he took full advantage, playing some lovely creative football. But our first goal of the second period came from some great work from the back as Zak's determined tackling stopped a Chippenham attack and won the ball just inside our half, a quick look up and a cracking pass found Wileysy in space. Sam still had work to do but he doesn't need a second invitation and he finished calmly to open his account for the season and put us ahead for the first time in the game.

Next up was a young man determined to make his mark on his debut (although it feels like Will's always been part of the team as he's just slotted right in since joining in the summer), as Will got on the ball on the edge of the Chippenham area and absolutely smashed (and I do mean smashed!) home our 3<sup>rd</sup>. Minutes later, he was back again to prove it was no fluke, with some superb creative play from Alan setting him up to drive home another thunderbolt. Great way to make your mark on your debut and not just the goals – Will worked hard for the team throughout and always provided an option, cracking stuff.

Speaking of working your socks off, Noah had probably his best game yet in a Robins shirt today, reading the ball really well, winning it back, then using his skills to beat his man, and some great decision making about when to run it or give it. Great work, Noah, keep it up.

On the right, Josh and Teddy combined brilliantly, Teddy defending superbly and driving the ball out of the back, with Josh dropping back in to cover when necessary. Not that Josh's sole contribution was to cover for Teddy, he had plenty of creative work of his own to contribute and like Noah, used his skills to great effect.

Midway through the half, Sonny moved alongside Jowan into midfield and the two combined really well, solid in breaking up attacks, and with some great work going forward too – the range of passing and choice of pass was superb. Sonny always looks like he has all the time in the world on the ball and it's a delight to watch him stroke the ball around, a good run and he worked himself into a good position to the right of the Chippenham goal and unleashed a delicious shot/cross that hung in the air before dropping in at the back stick, a lovely goal, classy work!

Our next came with good work from Tom who won a free kick just inside their half and dropped in a great set piece on a sixpence into Alan deep inside the Chippenham box and Alan topped a great performance by coolly bringing the ball down and lashing it past the keeper. Nice for Al to get a goal of his own after working so hard to create chances for others.

Chippenham were still creating chances of their own though and a well-worked move down our left created chance for a cross into a player running into the middle – he fired point blank and it had to be a certain goal, surely? Nope, Chivs had other ideas and managed to not just pull off a stunning point-blank save but also push it away from danger, Josh tidied up and the danger was over. A brilliant save, and great thinking too to

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not just bounce it straight back to the striker but push it out at an angle, top work Mr Chivers!

As the game drew toward a close Jowan won the ball with a great challenge just in front of our area, one look up and played a glorious slide rule pass through for Lewis to run on to. Full credit to the Chippenham defence who were alert to the threat and moved quickly to close him down and show him wide. A shame though, as the pass alone deserved a goal, sheer quality from Jowan. But Lewis wasn't to be denied his second and more creative play from Alan played him in to seal the game with a minute left on the clock, two very good finishes from Lewis and some great work all over.

This was a pleasing start to the season, the boys played good football throughout, worked hard as a team and got their just rewards for a very composed performance. Good start, lads – now let's kick on from here!

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