

Sunday 21st November 2010 - Sheen Old Grammarians

Brentham Veterans v Sheen Old Grammarians Veterans.

Team:-

Adrian Lovett

John Rogers
Pete Hoban
Mark Langley-Sowter
Dave Grose

Nigel Green
Tom Rice
Eamonn Malone
Tony Georgiou

Mick Duffy
Jon Rhodes

Subs:

Mick Eames
Chris Firmin

Unused Sub - Mike Miley.

On a bloody cold and grey Autumnal Sunday morning, Brentham Veterans were entertaining Sheen Old Grammarians Veterans (Sheen) in a little corner of Ealing. Marky Mark was making a landmark 100th appearance for Brentham, and as well as being appointed Captain for the day, Mark decided to bring half a bottle of wine (a bloody good vintage) and three glasses into the dressing room as he declared "the Manager said I should only have three glasses of wine before the game when he rang me yesterday". Everybody rolled about pissing themselves laughing.....or just carried on getting changed. Brentham and Sheen took to the immaculate pitch, Sheen in their nice Crimson and white kit, and with Marky Mark completing another one of his sentences with another utterance of some kind or another, he was called to the centre spot by Sir Percy for the coin toss, which today couldn't have been more apt for a complete and utter Tosser who was being watched by his proud daughter Sarah and her boyfriend. Brentham, or more precisely Marky Mark, lost the toss and kicked off defending the bowling green end of the pitch.

The game started at a hundred miles an hour with blood and thunder tackles being made by both teams (I think you know where I'm going with this now don't you?). After 15 minutes, Sheen drew first blood when a fine cross from their right wing was headed home empathically giving Adrian no chance whatsoever. 0-1 to the visitors. Brentham pushed forward in search of an equaliser and Jon Rhodes fired wide from a fine Malone cross. Brentham forced several corners and from one, Tom Rice directed a header which hit the base of the post, a bloody good effort from the Rice Unit who is allegedly appearing in panto as a panda in some theatre or other in London in the near future. Brentham continued to push forward with John Rogers joining the forwards at every opportunity to supplement the strike threat. On 25 minutes, Eamonn Malone dazzled with some nifty footwork and engineered space for himself on the left hand side of the Sheen penalty area, and from 25 yards he curled an excellent shot into the top right hand corner of the Sheen goal for an early contender for goal of the season, which he has no chance of winning as Duffy will be the judge on a panel of one, and his tap in from 2 yards earlier in the season is way out in front at the moment, and it will be hard to beat. Malone may not like the decision, and blood may flow!

Pete Hoban was sweating buckets as he worked heroically to try and match Marky's pace and work rate at the heart of the Brentham defence. Nigel Green and Tony Georgiou were as usual putting

their shifts in as Brentham continued to have the majority of position in search of another goal. On 35 minutes, more fine work by Malone on the left wing saw him deliver the perfect cross onto the head of Duffy who from 3 yards thumped his header into the back of the Sheen net for a much better goal than Malone's earlier in the match. 2-1 to the hosts who had had their noses bloodied by the quick one-two of the Brentham attack.

Sir Percy was covering every blade of grass - in the centre circle - before he decided it was time to blow his whistle on an entertaining half of football enjoyed by the nine supporters and Mike Miley who decided it was too cold to take his tracksuit bottoms off and join in the fun.

Half Time: Brentham Veterans 2-1 Sheen Old Grammarians Veterans.

Brentham had changed to a 3-5-2 formation for the second half, with a view to bleeding Chris Firmin in the centre of a diamond shape with John Rogers, Marky Mark and Pete Hoban confident of handling the Sheen forwards. For the first fifteen minutes of the second half, it was one way traffic as Brentham continued to push forward with the Sheen goalkeeper having to make several fine saves to deny Brentham what would have been a deserved third goal. On the hour mark, one incident changed the whole outcome of the match. It appeared to be quite innocuous at the time, however, the repercussions were enormous. Sir Percy dropped his whistle and failed to give a free kick to Brentham for a blatant foul on a Brentham player just outside the Sheen penalty area. If the free kick had been given, this reporter is positive the outcome of the game would have been different, as without a doubt Brentham may have scored from it, without any question of doubt, it might have been 3-1 to the hosts.

A minute later Tom Rice went up for a header in the centre circle and a clash of heads with a Sheen player resulted in claret being spilled everywhere. Hannibal Sowter could be heard smacking his lips as Tom's nose bled profusely with his yellow shirt quickly turning crimson. The game was held up for 10 minutes as players tried to stem the flow of blood from Tom's hooter (with thanks to John of Sheen who assisted). Eventually Tom was helped off the pitch so he could recover at the side of the pitch. What a drama queen.

Mick Eames was introduced to the game, and within 5 minutes Brentham suffered another injury as Dave Grose hobbled off with a lump on his foot the "size of an egg". I'd hate to see the size of Dave's peanut's in Dave's house (if they can be seen). Some may say these two events changed the course of the game, but Sir Percy dropping his whistle is the likely reason. Within five minutes of the whistle drop and the two injuries, Brentham found themselves 2-3 down. Firstly, a through ball caught the Brentham defence napping and a Sheen forward calmly steered the ball past Adrian for another fine finish. Five minutes later, the visitors took the lead as Brentham still had their minds on their team mate who had had to leave the pitch earlier in such a dreadful state, however, it is now known Dave Grose will make a full recovery and was back on the lager shortly after the game.

As Brentham pushed forward in search of an equaliser, they were exposing themselves to Sheen's counter attacks, and true to form Brentham were caught out twice as time ticked by with Sheen scoring in the 78th and 85th minutes, the fifth goal of theirs was a fine header from another excellent cross into the Brentham box. Sir Percy's back was stiffening up by the time he blew the final whistle, however it was again good to see him out on the pitch one more time before he spends the next three months on holiday in warmer climates.

A good performance by Brentham, as circumstances dictated the outcome of the game. Sheen to their credit are a good team, and took their opportunities well. Fine performances from John Rogers, Marky Mark and Eamonn Malone. A special actors nomination - the 'Gillian McKeith' drama award goes to the Rice Unit with Dave Grose a very close runner-up.

Thank you to everyone who took part.

Full time:- Brentham Veterans 2-5 Sheen Old Grammarians.
(Malone 1, Duffy 1,)

Next game home v Barnes Veterans - Sunday 28th November 2010.