

## Brentham Vets vs Old Richmond Lock 12 Dec 2010

### Squad

Aid  
Mark  
Pete  
Paul James  
Mike Miley  
Dave G  
Dave S  
Tom  
Eamonn  
Nigel  
Tony  
Jon Rhodes  
John Rogers  
Colin M  
Mick E  
Chris

On a beautifully candescent and blue sky Sunday morning, Old Richmond Lock rolled in to the Brentham club at the at the main entrance as Marky Mark had again to hoist his sparkling frame over the gate with 5 balls, kit and his obligatory bag for life – sparkling ‘cos he’d had a few glasses of the bubbly stuff a few hours earlier! Someone please sort out the key!

The going was good to soft and a competitive match was in prospect after the Lock came back strongly from 1-3 down to earn a 3-3 draw last time out. This time though, everyone knew where we playing and we started with a full squad minus the mighty atom Matthews who failed a late fitness test with flu on the knee. A new pre-match chat was also in prospect as Der Fascist Grosen explained we were to try ‘roll-on, roll-off’ subs’ today which seemed to have the support of Hobanograndad who was already rubbing his thigh in anticipation of rolling on as usual (not sure what that meant, Ed). But did the Fat Controller have a plan for this bold strategy to work? We would see, and then we wouldn’t.

As the game was about to start, Herr Sellars motioned to Marky Mark to be sensible about the ‘roll-on, roll-off’ idea and for once, Marky Mark acquiesced without a quibble. Then a spanner Salmon fell into the works as the Big Eames arrived and took charge replacing the Fat Controller with ease. The starting whistle blew with none of us the wiser as to the potential effect of this new approach. Either way, Brentham started brightly, pushing the ball around with ease and immediately putting the Lock under pressure with a few half attempts on goal. However, on 6 minutes, Richmond had their first attack with a lob straight over the middle of Brentham’s defence. The centre forward rolled off the back line and despatched the ball for a well taken goal. 0-1. Not having the quickest defence in the ‘league’, Scouser Neil rolled off a line that we have been prone to this kind of goal all season. Still, we battled on and although the confidence and touch dissipated for a while, Rhodesey hauled us back into the game with a fine solo effort, catching the Richmond goalie off balance with a well struck shot after 29 minutes. 1-1. And then the first ‘roll-on, roll-off’ move took place before the restart with the Firminator, Macca and MM replacing Hobey, the Roger and Tony G. Within a minute, we were 1-2 down after Richmond had their second attack with a lob straight over the middle of Brentham’s defence which perhaps Aidy could have intercepted or even Marky Mark and Hobey cutting it out in the first place. Recriminations, recriminations! And then we all rolled off at half time to assess what had gone wrong. To be fair on ourselves, we weren’t doing badly at all apart from the 2 silly goals. We were playing well and even Duracell had started to get his touch back after a 2 week break on the lash – playing golf apparently. To bring us all together, the Geordie reminded us as to why we were here: “Deeya wannabe inny were elsa?” or something like that. Very apt, very poetic and received a deserved big hand!

Interlude:

*There was an idea to roll on,  
There was an idea to roll off  
But somewhere in the middle, it got into a muddle  
So the idea was told to f\*\*k off!  
Well that's what Macca said along with it being a load of warlocks.*

Joking apart now, Brentham then played the best half they have played all season; with passion, discipline, energy and playing some lovely expansive and controlled football. A joy to watch and be part of, at least for 33 minutes, but I'll come on to that in a mo. We really did chaps and with a bit of luck and better finishing, we could have rolled them over. Our just reward came in the 59<sup>th</sup> minute when Marky Mark broke down a Richmond attack on the right, assaulting two Richmond players and Hobey at the same time by shouting Magoo-like: "Get out of my king way!" He then rolled a reverse pass to Nigel down the wing and after some sweet exchanges crossed well for Tom Rice to slot home elegantly as the big unit does so well. 2-2. We were on a roll, but no-one was rolling on. Did roll-off actually mean 'stay off'? No matter. We pummelled the Lock some more and as their centre halves said at the end of the game, they had never seen such a one-sided half. Big Paul just missed twice, Duracell and Rhodsey went close on many occasions, the Lock defended stoutly and so it rolled on.

But it was not to be. Two lapses of concentration in the 83<sup>rd</sup> and 85<sup>th</sup> minutes saw Richmond steal in a headed goal after Aidy had called 'keeper', then Marky Mark was mounted by the centre forward and Aidy as their infernal speculative lob created a mess at the edge of the box again. 2-4.

At the restart, we still had time for the Macca to have a rasping shot expertly saved and for the second game in a row, Marky Mark showed off his balletic skills with a pirouette and missing the ball completely to match anything at Covent Garden.

Yes, Old Richmond Lock knew they had been in a game and were very lucky to have ended up winning it. As Nigel said in the changing rooms after, we have a lot to take confidence from and we played well, especially in the second half. So let's stuff Teddington and everyone else and not lose a game for the rest of the season eh!? Well played everyone.

By the way, the 'roll-on, roll-off' idea has gone back to FIFA's Exco in order to be re-considered in time for the Qatar World Cup when it is expected that the first all gay team will play together. Yes, yes, rolling on and rolling off each other!