

Sunday the 10th of October 2010.

Brentham Veterans v North Greenford Veterans.

West Middlesex Veterans Cup.

Team:-

Richard 'Tricky' Kirk

John Rogers  
Paul James  
Dave Sellers  
Alan Hedley

Jon Rhodes  
Tom Rice  
Eamonn Malone  
Colin Livingstone

Mick Duffy  
Paul Navarre

Subs:-

Nigel Green  
Dave Grose  
Tony Georgiou  
Unused Sub - Pete Hoban

It was the 10th of the 10th of the 10th as Brentham Veterans turned up to host North Greenford Veterans in the West Middlesex Veterans cup on a glorious Sunday morning. Dave Grose admitted to partying until the early hours of the morning (again) on the eve of the most important game in Brentham Veterans most recent history - he was to be sub. Brentham had never beaten North Greenford before, so this was going to be a severe test for them, but all of the players were 'up for the challenge'. The Big Tosser lost the toss so Brentham kicked off defending the bowling green end of the pitch.

The game was a 'proper' cup game with plenty of tackles being made and both sides competing well to try and gain the upper hand. Brentham had the first chance when Duffy challenged Carlos in the North Greenford goal when a sticky back pass was made by the visitors left back, fortunately for North Greenford, Duffy couldn't capitalise on the opportunity and the danger was cleared. North Greenford hit back and Tricky denied their forward when he was through on goal, the first of many excellent saves by the Brentham goalkeeper. On 20 minutes Brentham almost took the lead when fine control by Paul Navarre on the edge of the Greenford box saw him whip in a cross which was just missed by Eamonn Malone, but the ball hit the post before being hacked clear by the panicking North Greenford defence. As the game flowed from end to end, Tricky then pulled off an amazing save as he tipped a long range effort over his crossbar at full length with the ball being destined for his top corner - brilliant.

On 30 minutes, North Greenford made the breakthrough when a long ball out of their defence sucked Dave Sellers into a challenge, but he was turned and the Greenford player ran on to finish past Tricky who had no chance. Brentham responded with an excellent passage of play with Jon Rhodes and Paul Navarre combining well before Paul fired across the 6 yard line. As Duffy prepared to tap in, a last ditch tackle saw the ball cleared once again from the North Greenford goal line. On 35 minutes there was controversy as North Greenford believed they had scored a legitimate goal when a low cross from their left wing was allegedly fired in to the Brentham net at Tricky's near post, however, the referee and the Brentham defence were adamant that the ball had hit the side netting. The referee's

decision was the one that counted and he decided 'no goal', much to Brentham's relief and to the annoyance of the North Greenford players.

With Brentham expecting to go off at half time only one goal down, in stoppage time of the first half, North Greenford scored a second goal when another break from their midfield saw Tricky lobbed. Just before the ball crossed the goal line, Alan Hedley had run back to try and clear the ball, but he only managed to fire the ball into the top corner of the Brentham net, a clear own goal from the Mackem! As Brentham kicked off for the third time in the half, the referee immediately blew for half time.

Half Time: Brentham Veterans 0-2 North Greenford Veterans.

Brentham began the second half with a 3-5-2 formation with the onus on clawing the goals back to keep them in the cup competition, however, on 55 minutes, North Greenford scored a third goal with the Brentham defence claiming offside as a Greenford player ran through to leave himself one on one with Tricky. The striker finished, much to the annoyance of Dave Sellers who believed adamantly the goal should not have stood. Despite being 0-3 down, to Brentham's credit they continued to fight to try and get back into the game and on 65 minutes they were rewarded when French Paul broke through the North Greenford defence before chipping the committed Carlos in the Greenford goal, a fantastic goal from the Frenchman. Brentham now pushed for a second goal and forced several corners which all created panic in the North Greenford defence, but were all eventually cleared. Brentham continued to push forward and a fine cross from French Paul was almost headed in by Duffy but an amazing headed clearance from a Greenford defender denied the striker and Brentham from making it a nerve jangling finish for the visitors.

On 80 minutes, a Greenford counter attack saw a cross/cum shot beat Tricky and nestle in the far corner of his net which effectively saw the game finished as a contest, but enormous credit to Brentham who competed until the end with Eamonn Malone and French Paul taking the game to Greenford with some strong challenges which Greenford reciprocated with wild challenges on the two Brentham players which saw the referee having to have 'words' with the same North Greenford assailant. Time eventually ran out for Brentham and the referee blew his whistle to end Brentham's dreams of cup glory for this season, but to be beaten by North Greenford is no disgrace as they were the holders of the cup having also won their league last season, they are a very good Veterans team.

Brentham Veterans fought valiantly on the day with a fine all round performance, but some days you have to put your hands up and say the best team won, this was one of those days. Fine performances from all, particularly Jon Rhodes and Paul Navarre.

Thank you to everyone who took part.

Full Time: Brentham Veterans 1-4 North Greenford Veterans.  
( Navarre 1, ).

Next game Home v NPL - Sunday 17/10/10.