

Sunday 17th October 2010 - NPL

Brentham Veterans v National Physics Laboratories Veterans.

Team:-

Richard 'Tricky' Kirk

Dave Grose  
Paul James  
Pete Hoban  
Alan Hedley

Nigel Green  
Tom Rice  
Dave Sellers  
Tony Georgiou

Colin Matthews  
Eamonn Malone

Subs:-

Mick Duffy  
Mark Langley-Sowter  
Mike Miley

On a glorious October Sunday morning, Brentham Veterans were hosting the National Physics Laboratories Veterans (NPL) having already lost as many games this season as they had during all of the last regular season, so they were looking to bounce back with a win and a reward of sausage and chips in the bar afterwards, as arranged by chef Hoban. NPL were late appearing on the pitch as their kit had failed to arrive, however, Dave Grose was eventually able to take the mantle of Little Tossler and NPL kicked off with Brentham defending the bowling green end of the pitch. Brentham took the game directly to NPL and were first to create chances with Tom Rice firing wide and Eamonn Malone also missing the target from the edge of the NPL box. On 15 minutes NPL broke out of defence and their winger Billy Whizz took control of the ball on the edge of the Brentham penalty area before getting to the by-line and beating a couple of Brentham defenders before firing coolly past Tricky to give NPL the lead against the run of play.

Brentham responded and forced several corners. From one, Paul James headed just over the NPL crossbar. Eamonn Malone was then played through on goal but his fierce shot once again cleared the NPL crossbar. Incredibly, NPL increased their lead after 25 minutes when Billy Whizz once again broke clear with the Brentham defence claiming for offside. Mr Whizz took no notice of the claims and as there was no whistle he coolly slotted past Tricky. 0-2 to the visitors. Pete Hoban was making some last ditch tackles to deny NPL from increasing their lead, however, it was Brentham who continued to have the majority of the possession and further chances fell to Eamonn Malone and Colin Matthews who both failed to hit the target from close range. On 35 minutes Brentham eventually broke through when Mr Malone took control of the ball on the left hand side of the NPL penalty area. His fine cross was met by Colin Matthews who placed a firm header into the corner of the NPL net. 1-2 and game on.

Tony Georgiou and Tom Rice were next to try their luck from long range but the NPL goalkeeper made fine saves to deny the pair. Andy Capps blew the whistle for half time with Brentham wondering how they were behind in a game they had dominated.

Half Time: Brentham Veterans 1-2 NPL Veterans.

The second half began as the first half had finished with Brentham on the front foot pressing NPL deep into their own half. Tony G had another long range effort tipped over the NPL crossbar by the visitors custodian and Malone fired just wide from outside the NPL box. On 55 minutes, Brentham's pressure paid off when Malone once again caused problems inside the NPL box and his lay off found Matthews who in turn found the corner of the NPL net with his left peg. 2-2. Surely there was only going to be one winner now that Brentham had clawed back a two goal deficit? For the next ten minutes Brentham had a fine spell of possession and neat football with Dave Grose doing a fine man marking job on Billy Whizz. Dave had been told at half time that Billy was carrying around a bottle of wine with him, so Dave followed Billy around the whole time - very closely. Brentham's possession and superiority resulted in further chances which unfortunately were all squandered and on 66 minutes they were made to pay as Billy Whizz broke through the Brentham defence once again and finished confidently past Tricky to complete his hat-trick. Within 5 minutes, Billy Whizz had escaped Dave Grose's shackles again, and although Tricky called for the ball, Billy Whizz's pace saw him get to the ball first and he took the ball to the Brentham by-line before crossing to an NPL forward who bundled the ball over the line.

Incredibly, it was 2-4 to the visitors.

Brentham immediately changed to a three pronged attack with them having to chase the game. Further chances were created with Duffy, Tom Rice and Nigel Green adding to the list of chances created and wasted, and although Brentham continued to persevere, they could not break through the stubborn NPL defence who made some fine last ditch tackles, in addition their goalkeeper was having an inspired game. Brentham eventually ran out of time and Andy Capps blew his whistle to bring the game to an end. Incredibly, Brentham have failed to beat NPL on the last three occasions, a statistic which is incredible considering all of the possession Brentham have had over the three games. On another day Brentham would have scored the proverbial 'hat full', but it wasn't to be their day today.

Fine performances from Colin Matthews, Tony Georgiou and Dave Grose.

Thank you to everyone who took part.

Final Score Brentham Veterans 2-4 NPL Veterans.  
( Matthews 2, )

Next Game home v Imperial College, Sunday 24th October 2010.