

Sunday 24th October 2010 – Imperial College

Brentham Veterans v Imperial College Veterans.

Team:-

Mark Langley-Sowter

Pete Hoban  
Mike Miley  
Dave Sellers  
Dave Grose

Nigel Green  
Chris Firmin  
Eamonn Malone  
Tony Georgiou

Mick Duffy  
Colin Matthews

Subs:-

Tom Rice  
Jon Rhodes

On a glorious Autumnal Sunday morning, Brentham Veterans were entertaining Imperial College Veterans (The Imps), who they had thumped at home at this stage last season. Pete Hoban had recently become a Grandad and was full of the joys of Spring on this Autumnal day as he took the changing room floor for an impromptu stand up routine which involved 21 year old cardboard cut-outs amongst other things! Sir Percy was welcomed back for his first game as referee for quite some time, and he took no time at all in dropping his pants in front of Tom Rice and Eamonn Malone hoping one of the two boys would blow his 'whistle'.

The Big Tosser lost the toss and Brentham kicked off defending the bowling green end of the pitch with Marky Mark in goal following the late withdrawal of Tricky, like the good catholic boy he is. Brentham opened lively, looking to score the goals that had eluded them the previous week against NPL. Colin Matthews was first to try his luck, but he didn't quite connect with the ball as his shot was comfortably saved by the Imps goalkeeper. Nigel Green was delivering crosses into the Imps box, however, the Imps defence was standing strong and repelling the Brentham pressure. On 20 minutes, Brentham forced a corner which was only half cleared to the edge of The Imps penalty area where Nigel Green let fly with a shot that Duffy glanced past the Imps keeper. Unfortunately for the striker, Sir Percy blew for offside which cancelled out the 'goal'. Where was Capps when needed? He would never have given offside!!!

The Imps were buoyed by the let off and on 25 minutes, they pushed forward. Fine play by their left midfielder saw him cut inside the Brentham penalty area before firing a shot which beat Marky Mark at his near post, Marky Mark just hadn't managed to go down quick enough (phnarr,phnarr!!!). The Imps lead only lasted 5 minutes when fine pressure from Tony Georgiou and Duffy forced the Imps right back into a hurried back pass which Little Colin latched onto. Colin brushed aside the sweeper's challenge (play on words there, did you see it?) before rounding the Imps keeper and slotting the ball home. 1-1. Mike McMileyman was ignoring the criticisms of Dave Sellers and was winning plenty of headers at the back as the Imps played route one football, with Dave Grose and Pete Hobanagrandad providing outlets for Dave Sellers's pin point passing. On 35 minutes, Pete Hobanagrandad took delivery of another ball from Sellers and played the ball forward into space for Eamonn Malone to run onto from midfield. Malone side stepped a covering defender before coolly side footing past the Imps custodian to give Brentham the lead. The relief on Malone's face was plain to see as he took great delight in scoring his first goal of the season.

With 5 minutes of the half remaining, Colin Matthews had to hobble off with a thigh strain, and Jon Rhodes was introduced into the action. Sir Percy brought the half to an end with Brentham playing some delightful football in the last 15 minutes of the half.

Half Time: Brentham Veterans 2-1 Imperial College Veterans.

During the half time team talk, Captain Duffy asked for a volunteer to take over from Marky Mark in goal for the second half. Immediately, all of the Brentham outfield players arms were half way to being lifted when Tony G, as quick as a flash, shouted "I'll go in - no problem". The timings in the previous sentence may be slightly exaggerated.

Within 5 minutes of the restart, Dave Grose had to limp off injured. Pete Hobanagrandad returned to the field, however, Brentham now had used both of their subs, and had two injured players on the sidelines - lofty and lanky. Tony G was called into the action on a couple of occasions, and dealt with each situation effectively as he gathered the ball cleanly on both occasions. Eamonn Malone was having a free role in the second half and he was causing all kinds of problems for the Imps defence. On 60 minutes, Malone played Duffy in on the left hand side of the Imps penalty area. Duffy turned his defender but was tripped with Sir Percy having no option but to point to the penalty spot. and award Brentham their first penalty kick of the season. Duffy stepped up and fired the penalty down the middle, unfortunately for him, the Imps goalkeeper stood rooted to the spot and the ball hit his shin and deflected out for a corner to Brentham. A missed opportunity for the striker who currently couldn't hit a cow's arse with a banjo.

Brentham continued to push forward with Marky Mark playing some excellent balls forward to feet. On 70 minutes, Marky Mark was instrumental in Brentham's third goal when he played a one-two with Duffy before he played Jon Rhodes in down the right hand side of the Imps penalty area. Jon crossed the ball to Tom Rice who controlled it before striking the ball with the outside of his right foot into the bottom corner of the Imps goal for an s back into the game excellent finish. 3-1. For some reason the Imps were claiming for offside, but Sir Percy was absolutely right to give the goal as Rhodesey had pulled the ball back to the Rice Unit.

On 75 minutes the Imps got themselves back into the game when Brentham failed to clear an Imps corner and the loose ball in the penalty area was prodded home giving Tony G no chance. 3-2. With 10 minutes remaining, Mike McMileyman had had enough of Dave Sellers and left the field under the pretence of a pulled hamstring, resulting in a crippled Colin 'lofty' Matthews returning to the pitch who post match confided that he had resumed at "three quarter pace", much to the amusement of Pete Hobanagrandad who suggested Colin would be going backwards if he was going any slower.

With Brentham effectively playing with 10 and a quarter men, the Imps piled forward and a lobbed ball over the Brentham defence was latched onto by an Imps striker who steered the ball past Tony G and finished well from a tight angle. 3-3. Brentham pushed forward in search of the winner and there was still time for Duffy to fire over the Imps bar from outside their box and Nigel Green to head into the Imps side netting from a fine Jon Rhodes cross, however, there wasn't enough time for a winning goal from either team as Sir Percy blew the final whistle.

Brentham continue to huff and puff, but it just isn't happening for them this season for one reason or another. On a positive note, fine performances from Tony Georgiou, Marky Mark and Pete Hobanagrandad and it was especially pleasing to see Sir Percy back on the park, and in the changing room with his trousers around his ankles and an expectant grin on his face. We hope to see more of him this season (on the pitch).

Thank you to everyone who took part.

Full Time: Brentham Veterans 3-3 Imperial College Veterans.  
( Matthews 1, Malone 1, Rice 1,).

Next game HOME v Ken/Chels - 31st October 2010.

