

Sunday 14th November 2010- Acton Saints Veterans

Acton Saints Veterans v Brentham Veterans.

Team:-

Adrian Lovett

Mark Langley-Sowter

Paul James

Pete Hoban

Alan Hedley

Nigel Green

Tom Rice

Eamonn Malone

Tony Georgiou

Mick Duffy

Jon Rhodes

Subs:-

Chris Firmin

Dave Grose

On a wet miserable Remembrance Sunday, Brentham Veterans made their way to Greenford to play Acton Saints Veterans at the Post Office playing fields, where Brentham were hoping to deliver another win following on from their last victory against Ken/Chels two weeks previously. Brentham commandeered the home dressing rooms where the heat was on 'full blast' making the dressing room nice and cosy, particularly for Tony Georgiou who was unwilling to leave the warmth of the 'home' dressing room. Meanwhile, Acton Saints were shivering in the damp and cold 'away' dressing room. Mike Miley had pulled out on the morning of the game, just like the good catholic boy he is, however, Marky Mark was also missing. Theories were abound with talk of a tryst with Christian who was allegedly out of the country - or was she? Brentham took to the schoolboys pitch and eventually Marky Mark turned up with his handbag and balls, but no Christian, no Mike Miley or any cardboard cut outs.

There was no surprise to see Vinnie turning out for Acton Saints as he is taking the Bosman ruling to the extreme on his week to week contracts, and no doubt Brentham Veterans will be facing him again next week when they line up against Sheen Old G's, however, there was a surprise to see Geoffy at the game. The last time he was seen was when he was pi**ing himself laughing at Mackem Alan's impromptu dance routine next to the burger van after the Fabricio concert in Belgium. Geoffy had then tried to gatecrash Dave and Adrian's love nest, but had been locked out. Geoffy had walked back from Belgium, resulting in a hip replacement operation which he was putting to the test today as stand-in referee. Tony Georgiou broke the news to the Brentham team that Geoff wouldn't be able to keep up with play following his hip operation, and Alan, quick

as a flash retorted "well it hasn't bothered you in the past!" A quality from Alan which resulted in him being appointed Captain for the day against his 'old' team. The Mackem Tosser lost the coin flip resulting in Brentham kicking off attacking the club house end of the pitch. Prior to kick off, Geoff blew his whistle to commemorate the third anniversary of Paul James's comment of "I can't name all of them Like". An ongoing 'in joke' if you are new to the match reports. An impeccable one minute's silence was observed by all players and official with everybody's thoughts on the less fortunate who are not around, having paid the ultimate price of serving their country.

Brentham started brightly, following on from their excellent performance last time out with Eamonn Malone, Nigel Green and Jon Rhodes full of running as they put the Acton defence under pressure from the off. Acton were intent on playing an offside game, a risky ploy against the pace of the Roadster and the well timed runs of Malone. On 10 minutes, the Brentham duo combined to give the visitors the lead when Jon Rhodes stormed down Brentham's left wing before delivering a pin point cross onto the head of Eamonn who steered his header past the home keeper for a fine goal. 1-0 to Brentham. Nigel Green was next to try his luck following a neat Brentham move with Tony G finding Eamonn Malone who teed up Nigel who smashed the ball into the face of the home custodian, who to be fair, did well to stand up to deny Nigel. On 20 minutes, Brentham were not to be denied and extended their lead when a fine cross from Tony Georgiou wasn't dealt with by the Acton centre half and Duffy pounced to prod the ball past the home keeper. 0-2.

Tom Rice was pulling the strings in the Brentham midfield, and on 30 minutes he played a delightful through ball to Eamonn Malone who had judged his run to perfection. With the Acton back line claiming offside, Eamonn coolly finished to give Brentham a commanding lead. Direct from the restart, the dangerous Acton midfielder shot from the half way line and the ball sailed over Adrian into the back of the Brentham net. To be fair to Adrian it was an excellent goal, but the Acton player might find it a wee bit more difficult when he plays on the bigger Brentham pitch later in the season. Brentham were under the cosh before the half time break with Acton hitting the Brentham post following a fine strike from outside Adrian's penalty box, and Pete Hoban defending excellently when he cleared a shot off his goal line with Adrian beaten. Geoff brought the half to an end with Brentham having played some fine football in the half.

Half time: Acton Saints Veterans 1-3 Brentham Veterans.

It appeared that Acton's half time team talk was aimed at making them compete more as they came out much stronger in the second half, not in a 'dirty' manner, but definitely in a more robust manner. Paul James and Marky Mark were up to the challenge with Dave Grose and Captain Mackem also ably repelling the Acton threat. Nigel Green was a constant threat on Brentham's right wing, with Jon Rhodes and Eamonn Malone continuing to make excellent runs behind the Acton defence. On the hour mark, Eamonn broke in once again behind the Acton defence down the Brentham left wing, with Acton once again claiming for offside, which Eamonn clearly wasn't, Malone, with only the keeper to beat squared the ball to Tom Rice who effectively took the ball off Duffy's toe before rolling the ball into an empty net. Mr Rice will need to look at himself very closely and rethink his strategy if he wants to continue playing for Brentham Veterans, there

are certain 'unwritten rules' at this club, and he had better learn them - fast.

With Brentham now 4-1 up, they were breaking through the Acton defence at will with Duffy, Georgiou and Rhodes all denied by fine goalkeeping from the Acton custodian. Brentham broke through again on 72 minutes when Eamonn Malone played Nigel through one on one with the keeper, unselfishly he squared the ball to Tony Georgiou who was a fraction offside as he played the ball into the Acton net. Geoff was right to disallow the goal, but he also needs to 'think again' if he wants to 'hang out' with the Brentham Veterans, he needs to understand the Sir Percy rules of refereeing before he takes up the whistle again.

On 78 minutes, an excellent through ball from Nigel Green was latched onto by Duracell who once again calmly steered the ball home to complete a well deserved hat-trick. Fine finishing from Malone whose form has been improving week on week. Acton were in need of a boost, and on 80 minutes, they were given it when one of their players limped off. As they had no substitutes, Mick Eames donned an Acton shirt and took his place up front looking to reduce the arrears. With time running out, Marky Mark tried to play his way out from the back, and as he attempted to throw a dummy to walk the ball past Eamesey, the Salmon wasn't buying it and robbed Marky Mark before firing the ball past Adrian. As Eamesey was just about to celebrate his 2nd goal in 50 years of playing football, his best friend and best man at his wedding, Paul James, callously cleared the ball off the Brentham line and away to safety with Mick Eames distraught and inconsolable. (well done Jamesey, great covering).

Geoff had had enough of the refereeing lark and his new hip needed lubricating, he also didn't want to give Tom Rice a head start with the drinking as the Rice Unit had limped off earlier to get himself in the warmth of the bar. Geoff blew the whistle with Brentham recording their 4th win of the season with a fine performance from all, particularly Nigel Green, Jon Rhodes and Eamonn Malone. Thanks to Geoff for refereeing, and no doubt we will see Vinnie next week as he attempts to play for all of Brentham's opposition in the 2010/2011 season.

Thank you to everyone who took part.

Full Time: Acton Saints Veterans 1-5 Brentham Veterans,
(Malone 3, Duffy 1, Rice 1,)

Next game Home v Sheen Old Grammarians Veterans. Sunday 21st November 2010.