

Brentham Veterans v Southside Veterans.

Sunday 16th January 2011.

Team:-

Adrian Lovett

Mark Langley-Sowter

Paul James

Pete Hoban

Alan Hedley

Jon Rhodes

Tom Rice

Dave Sellers

Tony Georgiou

Colin Matthews

Eamonn Malone

Subs:-

Mick Duffy

Mike Miley

Neil Graveney

On a glorious, yet breezy Sunday morning, Brentham Veterans were playing their first game of 2011 against Southside Veterans, in fact, it was Brentham's first game for five weeks following the Christmas period and postponements either side of the holiday. Everyone wished each other a "Happy New Year" in the Brentham dressing room as each player turned up, but there was some quizzical looks when an elderly Indian chappy walked through the Brentham dressing room door. Who was it? The Indian chappy wished everyone a happy new year, and all of the Brentham players realised in unison that it was actually Sir Percy who had just returned from one of his fourteen cruises a year with an excellent sun tan. Sir Percy proceeded to take off all of his clothes and sat in the corner of the dressing room waiting for Eamonn Malone to turn up. Lee Van Cleef was next to turn up, aka Marky Mark wearing a fedora. Talk about the good, the bad and the ugly - all in one character!!

Captain Duffy reminded everyone to pay their deposits to the Rice Unit for the Ireland tour, and it is mentioned in this match report for the benefit of those not present in the changing room, but who intend to travel in the party and have not paid their deposit yet. Jon Rhodes was then awarded a silver salver to commemorate his 100th goal for Brentham Veterans in the last match of 2010. The silver salver had been in Duffy's possession since April 2010 waiting for Jon to score the two goals he needed to reach his landmark - and everybody thought Duffy was having a lean spell!!! Congratulations to Mr Rhodes.

Duffy then announced he will be standing down as Captain at the end of the current season, so anybody who is interested in taking over the piss easy job is welcome to put forward their CV as interviews will be held in the close season. All are welcome to apply, apart from Marky Mark who still hasn't been forgiven for the attempted coup two seasons ago!

Brentham took to the pitch and Colin Matthews, who is still a little Tossler, won the toss and Southside kicked off attacking the bowling green end of the pitch. Southside began the brighter as the Brentham players looked to run off their Christmas dinners and barrels of booze which were consumed over the previous month, and Southside created the first chance when a fine effort from outside the Brentham box was brilliantly turned around his post by Adrian giving the visitors the first corner of the game. Nothing came from the resultant corner and Brentham broke on the counter attack with Eamonn Malone left one on one with the Southside keeper. Eamonn made no mistake as he gave Brentham the lead after 10 minutes. Brentham's confidence grew with the goal, and Tom Rice and Dave Sellers began to boss the midfield as they created further chances for the forwards. On 15 minutes, Eamonn was once again played in one on one with the visitors keeper, but this time Eamonn fired his effort over the Southside bar. It

wasn't long before he made amends when a Southside clearance fell to Pete Hoban on the half way line, Pete could be heard to shout "ave it" as he launched the ball forward. As the ball came down with snow on it outside the Southside penalty area, Eamonn waited for it to bounce once to shake the snow off the ball, then he headed it over the on rushing goalkeeper to give Brentham a 2-0 lead after 20 minutes. You would have thought Hoban had scored himself as he sprinted 25 yards to congratulate the goalscorer (are they more than just friends?).

Within 5 minutes, Brentham were forced into making two substitutions when Pete Hoban flew into a 50/50 challenge, winning the ball, but injuring his knee in the process. Colin Matthews on the other hand was just 'shagged' and begged to be taken off so he could cuddle his inhaler. On 25 minutes, the best move of the match saw Adrian throw the ball out to Duffy, who played it back to Tony Gergiou, who in turn moved it out to Alan Hedley who hit a fine ball into the path of Dave Sellers who fed Eamonn Malone on the edge of the Southside penalty area. Eamonn's intended cross for Tom Rice was deflected towards his own goal by the Southside centre half, and as the ball was about to cross the line, the Rice Unit launched his considerable frame at the ball to toe it over the line and claim another goal in a fruitful season. 3-0. Brentham were now cruising and had further opportunities to increase their lead before Southside were given a life line on 35 minutes when a Southside midfielder wasn't closed down on the edge of the box and he was left to drill the ball home passed Adrian who was given no chance with the well struck effort. 3-1. Southside's tails were now up, and they pressed forward looking for a second goal, and just as Sir Percy was raising his whistle to his lips to blow for half time, a speculative effort from 25 yards from a Southside forward somehow slipped through Arian's grasp and the ball nestled in the Brentham goal. 3-2. There was no time to kick off, and Brentham had let a commanding lead slip, however, there was evidence from the first half that there was more goals to be had in this game.

Half-time: Brentham Veterans 3-2 Southside Veterans.

Brentham kicked off the second half with Neil Graveney taking to the pitch for the first time in four months. He hadn't missed much in that time, apart from Jon Rhodes's TWO goals. Brentham now took the game to Southside, and it wasn't long before Eamonn Malone was crossing for Duffy on the 1 yard line, but his tap in was deflected onto the Southside post by a brilliant challenge from the Southside defender - what a tackle!! Brentham continued to push forward, and fine work again from Eamonn Malone saw him lay back a ball into the path of Tony Georgiou on the penalty spot, and as Tony was preparing to shoot, he was 'wiped out' by the Southside goalkeeper - penalty. Sir Percy had no doubt with the decision, but surprisingly, a few of the Southside players complained that it was "never a penalty" - Weird. Mr Malone passed on the offer of completing his hat-trick, and just as Dave Sellers was about to start sulking because he wanted to take it, Duffy gave Sellers the ball. Dave made no mistake with the spot kick. 4-2. On 60 minutes, Brentham increased their lead when a through ball from Malone was intercepted by the Southside keeper who attempted to clear the danger from just outside his box. His poor clearance fell to Duffy 40 yards out. Although the striker couldn't score from 6 inches out on the day, he returned the ball over the retreating keepers head and into the vacated net for a fine finish, no doubt goal of the season. 5-2.

To be fair to Southside, they didn't let their heads drop, and they continued to press forward, and they were rewarded with another goal on 65 minutes when a brilliant effort from 30 yards flew over Adrian's head and into the back of the Brentham net. 5-3. The game was now end to end with Paul James, Mike Miley, Alan Hedley and Marky Mark knowing they were in a game as they worked hard to repel the constant Southside barrage, although with the visitors piling forward, they were leaving spaces at the back which Malone and Duffy should have exploited more, however, Dave Sellers showed the strikers how to finish as he curled a beautiful effort inside the Southside keeper's left hand post from just outside the box for a fine goal. It was now 6-3 to the hosts, and with only 12 minutes left, it looked as if it was game over so the Rice unit was rested, and Marky Mark hobbled off 'injured' but in truth, it had been 33 minutes since his last fag and he was gasping.

Southside again poured players forward and they were rewarded with another goal with 10 minutes to go when the ball was bundled over Adrian's line giving Southside renewed hope that they could salvage something from the game. The Southside right back was next to try his luck when he fired in a shot from 25 yards which Adrian clawed around his right hand post for a fine save, however, from the resulting corner, Southside reduced the arrears to make the core 6-5 in a thrilling game which had the crowd of 13 on their feet, mainly because there are no seats on the sideline. Brentham kicked off again with only 6 minutes to go, and they should have wrapped up the win when Malone played a delightful through ball onto Duffy

who had beaten the offside trap, and with only the keeper to beat he tried to round the round custodian who pulled off a magnificent save. There was still time for Southside to pump in one more long ball into the Brentham box, and as a Southside forward headed the ball towards the Brentham goal, Colin Matthews was on hand to clear the ball from the Brentham line. Sir Percy eventually blew his whistle for the end of a thrilling game with Brentham just edging out their visitors.

Although Brentham made hard work of the game, they still played delightful attacking football throughout, and they created chances at will. At the 'end of the day' it was another victory for Brentham, with fine performances from Eamonn Malone, Dave Sellers, Paul James and Tony Georgiou. Reports are just in that Neil Graveney has been given an iron lung as one of his two 'fuck*d up' ones gave out completely when walking back to the changing room from the pitch.

Thank you to everyone who took part.

Full time:- Brentham Veterans 6-5 Southside Veterans.
(Malone 2, Sellers 2 - 1 pen, Rice 1, Duffy 1,).

Next game AWAY v Ken/Chels - Sunday 23/1/2011.