

Kensington & Chelsea Veterans v Brentham Veterans.

Sunday January 23rd 2011

Team:-

Adrian Lovett

John Rogers
Mike Miley
Paul James
Dave Grose

Jon Rhodes
Tom Rice
Chris Firmin
Tony Georgiou

Mick Duffy
Eamonn Malone

Subs:-

Colin Matthews
Nigel Green

On a grey and damp Sunday morning, Brentham Veterans made their way to Chiswick to play Kensington & Chelsea Veterans (Ken/Chels), The Brentham Veterans congregated in the cosy away changing room and changed into their yellow kit, however, Dave Grose had his eyes closed as he changed, and assumed Brentham had donned their Blue kit. It was great to see the Brentham supporters out in force as Marky Mark, and especially Mick Eames turned up to shout on the lads for the day. Marky Mark had travelled all the way from, erm, Chiswick, and a special mention to Mick Eames who had travelled a long way, ish. The veterans made their way to the far corner of the playing fields, which took as long to reach as it took for everyone to change into their YELLOW kit. Marky Mark and Mick Eames took their place in the stand adjacent to the pitch alongside the home supporters which was full to capacity (a capacity of six), The weighty striker, who doubles up as a Big Tosser, won the toss and Brentham defended the allotment end of the pitch, kicking with the wind in the first half. Ken/Chels kicked off and were immediately put under pressure as each Brentham player pressed the ball which resulted in Ken/Chels losing possession, a pattern which was to continue throughout the game.

Within 5 minutes, Brentham were forced into a substitution when the fittest man in the Brentham squad, Chris Firmin, pulled a calf muscle, resulting in a formation change for Brentham with Eamonn Malone returning to midfield and the weighty forward Colin Matthews partnering the other weighty forward up front, giving Brentham a weighty attack. Mick Eames could be heard from the touch line shouting encouragement all of the time, which spurred Brentham on. Without his support, it is unimaginable how Brentham could continue to perform so well week in week out. Brentham were taking the game to Ken/Chels, and in the first 20 minutes, the opta stats confirmed Brentham had 70% of possession, to Ken/Chels/s 25%. Brentham were creating half chances with Jon Rhodes firing over from the edge of the penalty area, and Tom Rice firing wide from 25 yards. Colin Matthews also fired over from outside of the box as Brentham continued to dominate. Mathematician Duffy was next to try his luck as he wriggled in the penalty area, but the Ken/Chels keeper denied the weighty striker by diving at his feet.

Adrian was a spectator for the first 25 minutes as John Rogers, Mike Miley and Paul James snuffed out any attempted attack by Ken/Chels, however, Dave Grose was so bored, that whenever he had possession, he passed it to a Ken/Chels player and said "have another go, 'cos we're bored back here. Have a shot at Adrian, 'cos he's getting cold". On 26 minutes, one of Dave's invitations was taken up, and a feeble effort was collected by Adrian who had so far collected two back passes in the game. Brentham again pushed forward, and from their next attack they broke the deadlock. A passing move from the back involving Paul James and Mike Miley, but definitely not Dave Grose, resulted in Tony Georgiou taking possession just inside the Ken/Chels half. Mick Eames could be heard quite clearly shouting, "Tony, play the ball with the

outside of your right foot into the path of the forward running Eamonn Malone and he will score". Without these words of wisdom, who knows what would have happened, but Tony heeded the advice and played Eamonn Malone in who waltzed passed the covering defender, before rounding the keeper and slotting the ball into the empty net for a fine finish. 0-1 to the visitors.

With Brentham taking a deserved lead, they continued to dominate, and they forced several corners, however the Ken/Chels keeper was in dominant form as he claimed several high balls, denying Brentham the opportunity of extending their lead. Jon Rhodes was working tirelessly, and his covering back denied two counter attacks by Ken/Chels as the half drew to a close, however, there was still time for Dave Grose to pass the ball to the Ken/Chels large black fellow who was so surprised, he ran the ball out for a Brentham throw. The inconspicuous referee (a good sign), blew the half time whistle and Brentham trudged off at half time deservedly leading, allbeit by the solitary goal.

Half Time: Kensington & Chelsea Veterans 0-1 Brentham Veterans.

Mick Eames advised the Captain of what to say at half time, which inspired Brentham to pick up where they left off at the end of the first half. Nigel Green was introduced into the affray as Brentham kicked off looking to ensure Adrian froze his nuts off. The pattern of the second half took the same direction as the first, with Brentham having the majority of possession, Brentham 85%, Ken/Chels & Dave Grose 10%. Mike Miley was having an excellent game as he threw his body on the line trying to win possession back after Dave Grose had given the ball away (again), and John Rogers was foraging down the right hand side of the pitch providing excellent support to Nigel Green and the Brentham midfield. One of Eamonn Malone's trademark dribbles saw him cut through the Ken/Chels defence, but his cross/shot just couldn't be turned into the Ken/Chels net as Brentham looked for that insurance of a second goal. Further Brentham pressure resulted in a flurry of corners, but once again the Ken/Chels keeper was winning the battles, and just for good measure he punched Eamonn Malone on the nose resulting in Marky Mark smacking his lips on the sideline as a 2011 vintage claret was being poured.

Tommy Rice and Eamonn were working well in midfield as they took turns in pushing forward, with the Rice Unit's probing balls making life difficult for the Ken/Chels defence who were forced into some crude challenges to repel the Brentham onslaught. On 75 minutes, Brentham's dominance was rewarded as they won the ball back from Ken/Chels in the middle of the park following another Dave Grose pass, and Tom Rice fed in Jon Rhodes down the right hand side of the Ken/Chels defence. Rhodesey fired in a hard and low cross which the Ken/Chels right back stretched for, but he could only divert the ball powerfully past his own keeper who had no chance. 0-2 to the Brentham Veterans who by now were playing with 10 men as Dave Grose had officially moved over to the Ken/Chels team despite retaining his yellow shirt.

With Brentham now coasting, Ken/Chels won their first corner of the match with 7 minutes remaining, which they wasted as it was delivered directly into Adrian's side netting, although it did mean that Adrian's heart rate increased marginally as he had to bend down to pick up the ball, and with Mike Miley behind him, Adrian also had to wipe away some sweat from his brow. Tom Rice was now bored, so he decided to go off which meant Colin Matthews returned to the match, and immediately made an impact as his vision allowed Nigel to take possession down the left hand side of the Ken/Chels defence. Nigel and Jon Rhodes combined well to create another chance for Brentham, however, understandably, Jon Rhodes's attempt on goal was a tired one following the amount of work he had put in on the day.

The referee blew his whistle for the end of the match and all of the Brentham players shook the opposition's players hands - and Dave Gorse's. An excellent performance from 10 man Brentham, especially considering they were playing against 12 men on the day. Brentham recorded their first clean sheet of the season, and have now won their opening two games of the year, hopefully they can continue this winning run, but next week they will have another stiff test as they will once again be playing against twelve men as the Bank of England usually have the fat ba*tard of a referee giving them every decision during the game. Excellent performances all round today, but particularly the defence of John Rogers, Paul James, Mike Miley AND Dave Grose. Fine performances also from Tony Georgiou, Jon Rhodes and Eamonn Malone. The rest of the team did fu*k all, particularly Adrian Lovett. A fine serene performance, with no stress or tantrums, which resulted in an excellent team result and clean sheet. Dave Sellers returns next week.

A special paragraph must be set aside for the Grumpy Old Man Mick 'The Salmon' Eames' whose support is second to none, together with his words of advice and money juggling skills, Brentham Veterans would be a far less happy place to be each Sunday. Unfortunately Mick isn't around next week as he is attending a wedding and will be unable to attend the Sunday game. All the author can say is "Thank Fu*k for that, hopefully one of these week's we will be without Dave Sellers AND Mick Eames, maybe then we can have a party!!! (love to both XX).

Thank you to everyone who took part today.

Full Time:- Kensington & Chelsea Veterans 0-2 Brentham Veterans.
(Malone 1, OG 1,).

Next game - Sunday 30th January 2011 - AWAY to the Bank of England Veterans,