

Sunday February 6th 2011

Meadhurst Veterans v Brentham Veterans.

Team:-

Adrian Lovett

John Rogers

Paul James

Dave Sellers

Dave Grose

Nigel Green

Eamonn Malone

Neil Graveney

Tony Georgiou

Mick Duffy

Colin Matthews

Sub:-

Mark Langley-Sowter

On a grey blustery Sunday morning, Brentham Veterans were getting in some practice for their end of season tour by visiting the land of the Leprechauns at BP Sunbury. The pitch was small, and the changing rooms were even smaller as Brentham Veterans all tried to fit into a cardboard box to get changed. Thankfully Brentham only had the bare eleven this week, and Marky Mark was just getting turfed out of a club in Chiswick and hadn't turned up yet. Understandably, Colin Matthews and Dave Grose couldn't see what all the fuss was about as they thought the changing room was massive. The conversation was all about Arsenal losing a four goal lead the day before to Newcastle, and Paul James took great delight in welcoming Eamonn Malone into the Brentham box and regaling the Arsenal fuk up. Nose bleeds and Red Adair were mentioned in the same sentence as the topic changed, however, the mirth continued as each player bumped into one another trying to change into their kit. Some players bumped into other players a bit too regularly – which was quite worrying, particularly as the vaseline was being passed around the changing room. Tom Rice had dropped out the day before, as he had to hold conference calls with Ireland on the morning of the game to confirm the exact number of rounds of toast that were required on tour. Frank Gallagher was also missing, so the Brentham Veterans freely left their valuables and clothes out in the knowledge they were safe.

Brentham took to the schoolboy pitch and were kept waiting by Meadhurst who eventually turned up in dribs and drabs. The Big Tosser's reputation had gone before him as Meadhurst dispensed with the formalities and awarded Brentham the end they wanted, and the kick off. Brentham kicked off playing with a gale force wind behind them, and understandably they had most of the territory as they played inside the Meadhurst half in the early part of the game. Meadhurst were trying to combat Brentham by playing five in midfield, which was effective as Eamonn Malone and Neil Graveney were being overrun in midfield, despite their best efforts. Brentham in turn changed to three at the back and Dave Sellers moved into midfield. On 15 minutes, Brentham's pressure paid off when John Rogers took a throw to Duffy who managed to turn his marker on the edge of the Meadhurst penalty area. Duffy found the bottom left hand corner of the Meadhurst custodian's net to give the visitors a deserved lead. Brentham continued to press and Nigel Green and Tony Georgiou both had cross shots which just went past the Meadhurst posts.

Although Brentham were having the majority of the possession, they just couldn't turn it into goals, although Duffy should have done better when played in by Dave Sellers and found himself one on one with the Meadhurst keeper who did well to save the striker's poor effort. On 35 minutes, Dave Sellers turned provider again, unfortunately for Brentham it was for the opposition when his poor pass out of defence went straight to a Meadhurst midfielder. Two passes later and Meadhurst had levelled when a fine strike went in the Brentham net off the underside of Adrian's crossbar.

Brentham again pushed forward and Tony and Nigel were providing testing crosses into the Meadhurst area which the hosts were finding a challenge to clear. Brentham continued to push as half time approached, but several through balls by Neil and Eamonn were carried by the wind giving Meadhurst respite as the balls flew out for goal kicks. The Meadhurst referee blew for half time with Brentham disappointed to have relinquished the lead after playing the half with the considerable wind behind them.

Half time: Meadhurst Veterans 1-1 Brentham Veterans.

Meadhurst kicked off the second half in the knowledge that they would have the majority of possession in the Brentham half with the hurricane behind them, however, the back three of Brentham, James, Grose and Rogers were more than a match to what Meadhurst could throw at them, and Neil Graveney was sitting in front of the Brentham defence to provide extra cover, although he did sometimes get up off his ar*e after he had recovered his breath. Meadhurst continued to push forward and were forcing several corners as Brentham's defence held firm, however, on 65 minutes, following another Meadhurst corner, Brentham failed to clear their lines and the Meadhurst right winger crossed for their striker to finish from close range giving Adrian no chance. 2-1 to the hosts.

It was now time for the unfit Neil Graveney to be replaced as he had given his all in an excellent performance. Neil was replaced with the Alpha athlete Marky Mark whose 'fresh legs' would no doubt help Brentham repel the Meadhurst onslaught. Marky Mark had recovered from his own injury and was feeling so fit, he had restricted himself to only the one packet of fags while he was watching his team mates in action over the previous 65 minutes.

Brentham had now weathered the Meadhurst storm and began to press forward themselves and good work from Nigel Green fed Eamonn Malone down the left hand side of the Meadhurst penalty area. Although Eamonn was surrounded by three defenders, he somehow managed to cross the ball into the Meadhurst penalty area. The ball looped over the Meadhurst keeper, and Tony Georgiou was on hand to force the ball over the Meadhurst line from 12 inches for a deserved equaliser for the visitors with 15 minutes still to play. Brentham pushed for a third, and Malone was played in by Duffy inside the Meadhurst penalty area, but a combination of a bobbly pitch, wind against and piss poor control meant the ball ran out for a goal kick.

Malone's endeavour however resulted in Brentham taking the lead with 10 minutes remaining. Meadhurst tried to clear the ball following another promising Brentham attack, but the centre half's clearance hit Malone and bounced into the path of Tony G who found himself alone with the ball in front of the Meadhurst keeper. Tony coolly sidestepped the keeper before slotting the ball into an empty net with both Matthews and Duffy howling at TG to pass the ball to them so that they could take the glory. A fine decision from the hairdresser who's locks were in a mess in the wind. Brentham just had to keep hold of the ball and see the game out now, and they appeared to be doing the job, however, Meadhurst forced yet another second half corner, and from it, a melee resulted in the Brentham area with a Meadhurst player trying to force the ball over the line. Somehow, a hand appeared from nowhere (allegedly), and the ball failed to cross the Brentham line, with Brentham able to clear the ball. Meadhurst were adamant that a Brentham player had handled on the line, but nobody inside the stadium or any of the TV pundits could establish if anyone had indeed handled, everyone that is apart from John Rogers who trotted out of defence pissing himself laughing.

With only two minutes remaining, Dave Sellers lost possession in the middle of the park and a Meadhurst midfielder played a bobbly ball forward to the whinging No.14 who managed to lob the ball over the onrushing Adrian on the edge of the Brentham area and the ball agonisingly crossed the Brentham goal line with John Rogers nowhere to be seen. For the second season running Brentham had conceded a late goal to Meadhurst which effectively cost them the proverbial 'three points'.

The referee blew for full time with Brentham feeling they had lost, even though they had kept their unbeaten run in 2011 going, but just like Birmingham City, they are drawing too many games. Another game which Brentham should have won, but the football being played is excellent, and one of these weeks a team will suffer at the hands of John Rogers.

Fine performances from Paul James, Dave Grose and John Rogers in defence, with Tony Georgiou and Nigel Green effective at the other hand. An excellent performance from Neil Graveney also. Not many mentions for Colin Matthews in this report as he spent most of the afternoon amazed at how big the pitch and the changing rooms were.

Thank you to everyone who took part.

Final Score: Meadhurst Veterans 3-3 Brentham Veterans.

(Georgiou 2, Duffy 1,)

Next game Sunday the 13th of February 2011 away v Imperial College.