

Sunday 17th April 2011

Brentham Veterans v Meadhurst Veterans.

Team:-

Adrian Lovett

Dave Grose

Paul James

Mike Miley

Alan Hedley

Jon Rhodes

Eamonn Malone

Mark Langley-Sowter

Tony Georgiou

Mick Duffy

Colin Matthews.

Sub:-

Mick Eames (unused).

On a glorious sunny Sunday Spring morning, Brentham Veterans were entertaining Meadhurst Veterans after the London Japanese pulled out of the fixture during the week. The team talk to prepare for the 'nippy, Japanese, which included Harry Kari (who was dying for a game), Sammy Rye (who cut through defences like a sword through butter) and man marking their 'big' centre forward with Colin Matthews, all had to be reviewed in readiness for a different type of Asian player wearing the yellow of Meadhurst on this sunny Sunday.

Alan Hedley turned up stinking of booze as he had attended a stag do the day before, which saw him complete a 12 hour session, although he did have the teams interest at heart as he 'bailed out' at 1am in the morning so that he could prepare properly for the game against Meadhurst. No doubt he had a kebab and a dance around some railings before he turned in to get a good night's sleep. Dave Grose found some sweets in Marky Mark's bag and began offering them to the grown-ups in the changing room, which probably wasn't who the sweets were meant for. The Brentham team was down to the bare bones with injuries and absences (was anybody running the London Marathon apart from John McGarvie this weekend?) ravaging the squad, so Brentham had eleven 'fit' players on the day, plus the evergreen Mick Eames. Nobody could think of any Welsh 'loser' this week, so Mick got away with pre-match Welshman baiting.

The two teams took to the bone hard pitch and Eamonn Malone was congratulated on making his 50th appearance for Brentham Veterans, a number he could have reached months ago if he didn't know so many people getting married and having stag do's every other weekend. Eamonn won the toss and became the first Old age pensioner to win the toss for Brentham Veterans since Chris Firmin v Polytechnic in 2009. Brentham kicked off with a nice new bright yellow ball defending the bowling green end of the pitch with Meadhurst's attack spear headed by 'Rainman' Kevin who was looking for the bar before the game so as he could have a drink. Dave Grose made friends with him immediately. Brentham began the brighter and forced several early corners, with Matthews delivering superbly into the Meadhurst box. From one, Duffy headed down powerfully and the Meadhurst keeper somehow got down low to keep the ball crossing the line, much to the striker's

disappointment. Jon Rhodes, who had just returned from 3 weeks in Argentina eating fray Bentos, was lively down the right flank of Brentham and was delivering some teasing balls into the Meadhurst box which was creating confusion and corners for Brentham. Eamonn Malone was next to meet a Matthews corner but he could not keep his powerful header down as it cleared the Meadhurst bar by a foot. Rainman Kevin was withdrawn after 15 minutes by Meadhurst and he was replaced by Kevin the teenager.

Meadhurst began to play themselves back into the game and had several periods of play where they kept the ball well and passed it around neatly, however, they did have the advantage of two 'youngsters' in the middle of the park, one barely 30, and the other in his early thirties. Marky Mark and Eamonn had their hands full today, but so did John Capps (who always has his hands full with Carol as his missus), and Meadhurst appealed for a penalty after 25 minutes when the ball bounced up and hit Mike Miley on the arm before he was able to clear the ball. Meadhurst were incensed that a penalty wasn't given, but they didn't have to wait for long when following a corner, Brentham failed to clear their lines and a Meadhurst midfielder dribbled his way into the Brentham box. Eamonn tried his best to make the tackle, but he succeeded in playing the Meadhurst player and not the ball. Penalty. The penalty was dispatched well and Meadhurst found themselves 1-0 up against the run of play. Brentham were given two opportunities to draw level with free kicks on the edge of the Meadhurst penalty area. First, Colin Matthews struck a fine shot which was saved well, unorthodoxly, but well by the Meadhurst keeper who kicked the ball clear of danger, and then Eamonn Malone fired wide from 25 yards from the second free kick. Further wayward shots saw the bright yellow ball disappear a couple of times and declared temporarily lost, to be replaced with a boring white football.

The yellow or white balls were was bobbling on the rock hard ground, and the mid-day heat was almost upon the two teams as they tried their best to play attractive football. Alan Hedley was sweating buckets of Fosters as he performed effectively at left back, confirming his ability to sink loads of lager, perform a break-dance concert and still perform on a Sunday morning on the football pitch. On 35 minutes, Eamonn Malone fed Jon Rhodes down the right wing, and Jon attempted to cross the ball to the far post. Unfortunately the

cross was absolutely sh*t, however, it caught the Meadhurst keeper unawares as he saw Jon's cross sail over his head and into the far corner of his net. What a brilliant goal from the Argentinian. 1-1. The two teams cancelled each other out for the remaining ten minutes of the half with Paul James and Mike Miley outstanding in the Brentham defence as they protected Adrian who did not really have a save to make of note in the first half.

Half time: Brentham Veterans 1-1 Meadhurst Veterans.

Brentham kicked off the second half with an urgency to take the lead for the first time in the game, and on 50 minutes, Eamon Malone played a one-two with Dave Grose on the edge of the Meadhurst penalty area. As Dave entered the Meadhurst box, his nose started to bleed, but this didn't stop him side-stepping the Meadhurst centre-half before firing a shot at goal which the Meadhurst keeper did well to palm over the bar for another corner to Brentham, however it was a brilliant effort from the right back who usually reserves his scoring for tours. Brentham maintained the ascendancy in the second half and on 55 minutes they took the lead when fine work from Malone down the left hand side of the Meadhurst penalty area saw him deliver a cross into the box which was met by Duffy who looped a header into the top corner of the Meadhurst net to put the hosts in front. 2-1. Dave Grose was enjoying himself and put in a hefty challenge on Kevin the teenager who turned around and said "it's not fair" before sulking and waiting for John Capps to give a free kick, which he did eventually.

On 65 minutes, Brentham extended their lead as a through ball was latched onto by Colin Matthews who met the ball at the same time as the Meadhurst keeper on the edge of the 6 yard line. The ball fell nicely for Colin who jinked his way past the custodian before squaring the ball to Duffy who took a touch on the bobbly pitch before placing it beyond a Meadhurst defender on the line from 3 yards to surely score goal of the season. 3-1.

As time wore on, Brentham began to tire in the heat and Meadhurst began to again enjoy more of the possession as they looked to take the game to Brentham. On 70 minutes, Kevin the teenager tumbled in the box, and as Meadhurst hollered for a penalty, John Capps waived play on, unfortunately, the Brentham defence didn't play on and the ball fell to the midfielder who

had a sore head (it was bandaged) and he struck the ball passed Adrian to reduce the arrears. 3-2. Brentham were now finding it difficult to get out of their own half now as Meadhurst piled players forward. Eamonn Malone was suffering from stomach cramps (he needed a sh*t badly), so his box to box running was curtailed and his robust challenges were less robust in case he had the sh*t kicked out of him. Kevin the Teenager's hormones kicked in and he left the pitch with his Meadhurst team mates pleading for him to come back on, but his bottom lip, which was touching the floor, prevented him from speaking to his team and he ignored their requests as he tore his boots off in a huff. For the third game running against Meadhurst, Brentham conceded a late goal against their opponents when a cross from the Meadhurst left wing was met with a header by the Meadhurst centre half who had pushed forward. His header took an age to loop into the net with the ball seemingly going over the bar, however, the Asians celebrated as if it was Ramadam once the ball nestled in Adrian's goal on 82 minutes. 3-3. Brentham were on their last legs as they tried to regain the lead, forcing several corners, all of which were awful compared to the first half deliveries, but from one, the ball was laid back to Mike Miley on the edge of the Meadhurst box. Mike's attempt of a cross was intercepted and the ball was played quickly out of defence to the lone Meadhurst player who was totally alone – in the Brentham half – as he raced forward with only Adrian to beat. As the striker bore down on Adrian, the thundering hooves of Mike Miley caught up with him, and the Mileymaster made a brilliant last ditch tackle to deny the forward the chance to win the game for the visitors. As time ebbed away, Meadhurst once again had a break away as possession was lost in Midfield by Brentham, this time Adrian made an excellent save with his legs to deny the visitors from stealing a win. Jon Capps blew his whistle and once again a Brentham v Meadhurst game had ended in a draw (for the third successive game).

Although not the best performance by Brentham this season, under the circumstances it was a well fought game on a bone hard pitch. Excellent performance from Alan Hedley considering the amount of lager he had consumed the day before, and considering he was depressed following Sunderland's loss to Birmingham City, and also excellent performances from Mike Miley, Tony Georgiou and Jon Rhodes.

Brentham returned to the dressing room to answer quiz questions from Dave Grose and ponder whether anyone would sha* all of the Coors, even it meant the Coor bloke was involved. Marky Mark let the side down with his answer, but we may put it to the test on the Summer tour when we will set him up with three country girls and their brother, while we sort Dave Grose out with a farmer's daughter and her Tractor.

Colin informed everyone he had been propositioned on the pitch by the Asian centre half who had all of his muscle in his co*k, which prompted Colin to drop deep into midfield to stop the centre half from penetrating further.

Thank you to everyone who took part, and for Carol who found the two missing footballs, which she brought with her to the veranda after the game as Meadhurst stole Brentham's remaining sarnies.

Final score: Brentham Veterans 3-3 Meadhurst Veterans.

(Duffy 2, Rhodes 1,)

Next game away v Kew Association, Sunday May the 1st 2011.