

Sunday 27th March 2011.

Brentham Veterans v Polytechnic Veterans.

Team:-

Adrian Lovett

Mark Langley-Sowter

Mike Miley

Dave Sellers

Dave Grose

Neil Graveney

Tom Rice

Eamonn Malone

Tony Georgiou

Mick Duffy

Colin Matthews

Subs:-

Paul James

John Rodgers

Nigel Green

On a glorious sunny Sunday morning in a little corner of Ealing, Brentham Veterans had a 100% turn out, despite the clocks 'springing forward' earlier that morning, however, Paul James still turned up 'late', even though he lives nearer than any of the other Brentham Veterans. Dave Grose's first task for the morning was to do a Spring clean of the home changing room, and he uncovered an award presented to Mick Eames for his 250th appearance earlier on in the season. It appeared the award had been discarded as the glass was broken and the frame was bent. How could Mr Eames do such a thing to an award which was painstakingly made and presented with love? Many hours had been spent on the calligraphy, and choosing the right colours to go with the ambience of the occasion. On a lighter note, thankfully the Welsh Ba*tards had been put in their place by England the day before in the football.

Brentham were entertaining Polytechnic Veterans, who Brentham Veterans had only beaten once in recent history, so there was a tough challenge ahead with one hour's sleep less than usual. Marky Mark didn't take the bait from last week's match report, and turned up in his Blue kit, there was a slight temptation to change to the yellow kit on his arrival, but the temptation soon subsided when Nigel Green polished his yellow boots and the colour clash would have been too much for some hungover veterans, one of whom was NOT Dave Grose on this fine morning.....

..... Having given you enough time to digest that shock information, the teams took to the pitch and the Big Tosser lost the toss for the first time in yonks, and Brentham kicked off defending the bowling green end of the pitch.

From the first whistle, Brentham were 'up' for the game and their application was first class as they harried the opposition and took the game to Poly with Eamonn Malone bounding around the pitch like a spring lamb, or a newborn foal in a field. Eamonn and his midfield partner Tom Rice were beginning to run the show, and after 10 minutes, Tom fed Eamonn through one on one with Geoff in the Poly goal. With only the keeper to beat, Eamonn squared the ball to Colin Matthews who poked the ball into an empty net. For some reason, Andy Capps blew for offside, stating Mr Matthews had received Eamonn's pass ahead of the Irishman – What!!! An incredible decision which did not go down

too well with the Brentham Veterans, although it made them even more determined to try and 'regain' the lead. Tom Rice next fed Duffy through the middle, but the striker was thwarted by the Poly custodian, but on 15 minutes Brentham did take the lead fairly and squarely when a decisive through ball from midfield by Dave Sellers was latched onto by the Spring lamb who turned and fired the ball into the Poly net before he bound away in his plimsolls to celebrate his goal. 1-0. Within 10 minutes, Poly were level when Dave Grose conceded a corner. The delivery was met by Horace who had a free header which ended in the back of Adrian's net. An inquest was immediately held in the Brentham defence as Adrian got to touch the ball for the first time in the match as he retrieved it from the back of his net. 1-1.

Mike Miley and Dave Sellers were forming a fine partnership at the back for Brentham, with Miley strong in every challenge and Sellers feeding the ball out from the back, along with Marky Mark and Dave Grose who were looking to play the ball to feet at every opportunity. On 25 minutes, Brentham regained the lead when once again Tom Rice played a through ball which Duffy and the Poly keeper reached at exactly the same time. Duffy was unable to beat Geoff to play the ball into an empty net, so he laid the ball square to Colin Matthews. With no whistle in the background, Colin fought off a valiant attempt by Waylon the Poly centre half, before firing the ball into the Poly net to continue his excellent goal scoring form by scoring in his fifth consecutive game. 2-1. Within 5 minutes, Brentham had extended their lead as Eamonn latched onto a loose ball 30 yards out from goal and lobbed the ball into the penalty area where Colin Matthews got a deft touch to lob the ball over the advancing Geoff with the ball nestling in the Poly net. 3-1. Brentham were now playing with confidence with Tony G and Neil Graveney enjoying their roles down the Brentham flanks. With 8 minutes remaining in the half, Poly were again forced back, and fine pressure from Neil Graveney saw a back pass from a Poly defender roll under the foot of the unfortunate Geoff in the Poly goal to give the hosts a commanding lead, the likes of which they had never had before against a Poly team. 4-1. Andy Capps blew for half time, and the Brentham team went off to a standing ovation from the crowd (Chris Firmin).

Half time: Brentham Veterans 4-1 Polytechnic Veterans.

The impressive Tom Rice, the impressive Mike Miley, and the impressive Dave Grose were all substituted at half time, and the squad acknowledged their contribution with round of applause for each – richly deserved.

The whistle blew for the second half and Colin thought he was offside, before he realised that Poly had just kicked off. Poly began the second half much brighter, and with a point to prove against their Brentham opposition, but the rearguard of Marky Mark and Dave Sellers, together with Paul James and John Rodgers were still up to the task of repelling everything that was thrown at them, resulting in Adrian having a relatively quiet game. On 60 minutes, Eamonn Malone played a delightful ball out to the right wing which Nigel Green ran onto which left him one on one with the Poly keeper. Unselfishly, Nigel played the ball across the penalty area where Duffy was running in ready to side foot the ball home, unfortunately, the ball took an almighty bobble and the striker blazed the ball over the bar, and at the same time he was tapped on the jaw by a covering Poly defender who either used a forearm smash, a drop kick, or a baseball bat, but it floored Duffy who had to leave the field of play seeing stars such as Demi Moore, Bruce Willis, Sylvester Stallone and Marky Mark. The remainder of this match report is as close the actual events as possible, but certain facts may be a bit more embellished than usual!

Poly began to push more men further and further forward as they had the majority of possession in the second half, and from one foray forward, a ball was crossed into the Brentham penalty area where Horace was left all alone, unfortunately for him, but fortunately for Brentham, Horace miss-kicked in front of goal and Adrian was able to collect the loose ball denying the Poly striker his second goal of the game. Dave Grose was using his tour striking skills up front for Brentham as Colin Matthews had hobbled off injured, and Eamonn Malone was pleading with the two injured strikers on the sideline to get on again so as he could rest his poorly little toe which had been stood on by a nasty Poly defender – but that is the price you pay for wearing slippers in a football game.

With Poly running out of time, they score a second goal with less than five minutes remaining, and it was probably the goal of the match, unfortunately

for them it was little more than a second consolation goal. Andy Capps blew his whistle (not for offside) and the game ended with Brentham recording only their second victory over a Polytechnic Veterans side in Chris Firmin's lifetime, which shows what a brilliant result it was for Brentham. Two wins in one hundred and thirty years shows how tough an opposition Poly have been.

With the reporter's memory not 100% after his blow to the head, he sought out facts and figures after the match to include in the match report. Colin Matthews confirmed he had scored a hat-trick, Mike Miley also confirmed he had scored a hat-trick, Pete Hoban confirmed he had scored a goal, and Dave Grose confirmed he had given up the booze. The reporter may have taken a bang on the head, but he's not that stupid to believe Dave Grose has given up the drink. Mick Eames also rang, and when he was informed of Brentham's victory over Poly, he burst out laughing and said " ha ha ha, you must have taken a bang on the head today ha ha ha, if that's what happened, Wales beat England yesterday ha ha ha!"

So, in summary, Brentham Veterans beat Poly 9-2, goal scorers – Matthews 3, Miley 3, Hoban 1, Malone 1, OG 1) and Dave Grose celebrated Wales beating England by drinking coca cola with Marky Mark who was wearing his yellow kit in the bar.

An excellent performance and result for Brentham Veterans against a formidable Polytechnic team. Everyone in the squad performed well to ensure the fine performances in 2011 continue. If only that C.U.N.T. hadn't missed a penalty against Acton Saints, Brentham would be unbeaten since the 12th of December 2010.

Final Score:- Brentham Veterans 4-2 Polytechnic Veterans

(Matthews 2, Malone 1, OG, 1)

Next game AWAY v Binfield, Sunday the 3rd of April 2011.