

Sunday 6th March 2011.

Brentham Veterans v Teddington Veterans.

Team:-

Adrian Lovett

John Rodgers

Mark Langley-Sowter

Mike Miley

Tony Georgiou

Nigel Green

Tom Rice

Eamonn Malone

Neil Graveney

Colin Matthews

Jon Rhodes

Subs:-

Dave Sellers

Dave Grose

Mick Duffy.

On a glorious sunny Sunday morning (although a bit chilly), Brentham Veterans were entertaining two tonne Ted and his mates from Teddington. Ted used to drive the bakers van, but now he was a veterans footballer. John Rodgers was appointed Captain for the day after reaching 50 appearances a few weeks back. The two teams took to the pitch which was looking a bit cut up after the previous day's football, but not half as cut up as Eamonn Malone was last week when Arsenal lost to Birmingham City in the Carling cup final. After playing on a carpet the previous week, The Blues would find it completely different on the pitch today. The little Tosser lost the toss and Brentham kicked off defending the bowling green end of the pitch.

The game began at a very slow pace with both teams happy to stroll around on a nice Sunday morning content on trying to take control of the bobbling ball without causing too many problems for the opposition. Teddington were the first to threaten when shot from distance hit Adrian's right hand post and went out for a goal kick. Brentham were next to threaten when a cross was met at the far post of Teddington's goal by Colin Matthews, but his header went wide of the visitors goal. Jon Rhodes then flashed a shot over the Teddington bar as Brentham began to take control of the game, however, Teddington broke through the middle of the Brentham defence and only a last ditch challenge by Mike Miley denied the visitors a goal as the ball ended up bouncing off Adrian's left hand post this time and out for a corner.

On the half hour Brentham's play got the goal they deserved as Tom Rice won a header which fell to Colin Matthews about 25 yards out from the visitors goal. Colin controlled the ball and hit a sweet strike which found the back of the net as it flew past the Teddington custodian. 1-0. Teddington reacted to the goal by carrying out an NFL manoeuvre by taking off the defence, and bringing on the off-defence with what looked like four substitutions all at the same time. Brentham continued to play good football, and an excellent flowing move brought about their second goal as Tom, Jon Rhodes and Eamonn combined well before a ball across the 6 yard line by Eamonn was tapped in at the far post by Nigel Green. 2-0. Word was spreading of Brentham's performance as first Colin Livingstone turned up, and then an 'old' Brentham player, Mick O'Brien turned up to watch the veterans.

Marky Mark and Mike Miley were solid at the back for Brentham, ably assisted by tosser Rodgers and Tony G as they saw the half out before John Capps blew his whistle for half time.

Half time: Brentham Veterans 2-0 Teddington Veterans.

Teddington kicked off the second half and immediately they were put under pressure by Rhodes and Duffy, resulting in the visitors losing the ball in midfield where Neil Graveney took possession before finding Tom Rice on the left hand side of the Teddington penalty area. Tom played Eamonn Malone in on goal and his cross shot was bundled over the line by Nigel Green to record his second goal of the game. The pressure Jon Rhodes had applied leading up to the goal had taken its toll and Jon unfortunately had to retire injured soon after with a recurrence of his hamstring injury which has plagued him recently. It was now 3-0 to the hosts who were now looking comfortable, however, the visitors had the 'two degrees' playing up front, and they both looked dangerous on the break as they broke the shackles of Miley and Marky Mark a couple of times to fire wide of Adrian's goal, so the warning signs were there when one of the degrees eventually took one of his chances to reduce the deficit after 65 minutes. 3-1.

Teddington found fresh impetus with the goal and forced a couple of corners with their quarter back shouting out the game plan "bar-b-que move" was one move they tried, and on the second corner "lawnmower plan" was the second corner's command. What the fu*k these sayings meant nobody knew, and that included the Teddington players who looked as confused as the Brentham players. A third corner was won by Teddington and it was expected to hear the Quarter back shout "listen to me, I'm a complete Wa*ker!", but he didn't need to say anything for everyone to think that anyway.

Brentham continued to have the majority of possession and Malone was looking dangerous up front as he beat a couple of players before trying to find the top corner of the Teddington net when Green was pleading for the ball to complete his hat-trick. Nigel did have an opportunity to drive in a shot a few minutes later, but his effort was well blocked and the ball rolled out for a corner. Brentham increased their lead on 75 minutes when another flowing Brentham move ended with Tom Rice's effort being blocked on the line only

for Eamonn Maloneto knock in the rebound from 6 inches to score a well deserved goal. 4-1 to Brentham. Brentham were now happy to keep the ball with Dave Sellers and Tom Rice orchestrating moves from Midfield as Brentham looked to see out the game. With 5 minutes remaining, Adrian pulled off a cracking save which saw a Teddington shot pushed onto the Brentham crossbar by Adrian and out for a corner. There was still time for Teddington to score a second consolation goal when one of the degrees fired through a crowded penalty area and the ball flew past an unsighted Adrian for what was effectively the last kick of the game. Cappy blew the full time whistle and Brentham had won 4-2, although if had been to school in Wales, it would have been 5-2 which Mick Eames believed the score to be.

After a quiet start, a fine performance from Brentham with fine performances from Marky Mark, Mike Miley, Eamonn Malone and Nigel Green. The Veterans enjoyed their post-match celebratory drink, supplied by Pete Hoban (WHO?), who had turned up after a month away to say "hello" and watch the Liverpool v Man Utd game in the bar. At the time of going to press, Tom Rice is probably smacking Pete in the bar at the moment as it's 3-0 to the Scousers!).

Full time:- Brentham Veterans 4-2 Teddington Veterans.

(Green 2, Matthews 1, Malone 1,).

Next game Sunday the 13th of March 2011 AWAY v NPL.

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