

Sunday 22nd August 2021

Ancient Britons 2 - LX Over 60s 1

After 5 minutes **Mike Verity** collected the ball on the halfway line, beat three players and passed to **Tony Taig** who passed the ball into the net at the far post. After 10 minutes LX won a penalty corner which was saved by keeper **Richard Boucher**. The follow up shot looked dangerous but **Paul Sharratt** stood firm to stop the ball on the line and clear. A few minutes later another LX attack was thwarted by excellent tackles from **Steve Taylor** and **Mike Handley**.

In the second quarter a fine AB attack following **Stewart Flisher's** aerial to **Mike Verity** culminated in a shot from **Robin Conway** that was saved at the post. The fans cheered a fine **Mike Handley** tackle in our "D", but the umpire gave LX a penalty corner. Thankfully the shot was too high, so the danger was averted. Another excellent carry into the LX "D" came to nought after the umpire played advantage from an LX foot, but sadly **Brian Hopkins** shot wide.

The first half ended with ABs holding their own against some solid LX possession, but ABs probably had the better chances to score. Fine AB defending denied LX turning possession into clear shots on goal; summed up by **Steve Taylor** silkily dribbling out of defence and passing to **Bruce Baron**, who was taken out by a "top" stick tackle from **Stackey**.

An early attack in the 3rd quarter by the AB **Mike Verity** was stopped by a good LX tackle. LX were turning up the pressure but good defending from ABs kept them out, although they were finding it hard to relieve the pressure. ABs tried the long ball as a way out, but in the end the pressure told and **John Stackhouse** got the equaliser for LX when he was able to tap in a cross at the far post.

The pattern of play continued with ABs working hard but unable to make the passes stick as LX kept up the pressure. A good tackle from **Robin Conway** released **Paul Bateson** but his run was soon ended. ABs were now starting to get back into the game with more good passing moves and as a result play became more end to end with neither team dominating. ABs were frustrated when they were not allowed to play an advantage despite having possession in the 'D' and play was brought back for a foul. **Tony Taig** finally won a penalty corner when he turned a defender in the 'D', but ABs were unable to convert.

Soon after the start of the final quarter, LX were awarded another penalty corner and a close-range shot was again saved by **Richard Boucher**. Shortly afterwards another excellent run by **Mike Verity** resulted in a penalty corner to ABs. **Robin Conway** received the ball and slipped it to **Sammy Li** who calmly flicked it into the net beating LX keeper **Reg Sharratt** on the near post. The goal was puzzlingly disallowed at first but after consultation it was declared a goal! ABs 2 LX 1.

Towards the end of the game ABs resisted an attack from **Malcolm Evans** and **Lakbir Atwal** and then broke away through **Paul Bateson** and **Tony Taig**. **Paul** was in space with an open goal but the pass from **Tony** just eluded him to leave the final result; 2-1 to ABs. This was a tough win; perhaps LX had more possession, but ABs defended well and scored when it mattered.

AB Scorers: **Tony Taig** and **Sammy Li**.

Man of the Match: **Mike Verity**.

Paul Sharratt, Richard Boutcher (Gk), Robin Conway, Tony Taig, Peter Reid, Stewart Flisher, Bruce Baron, Steve Taylor, Mike Verity, Sammy Li, Mike Handley, Paul Bateson, Trevor Denison, Jan Ahmed and Brian Hopkins.

Ancient Britons 0 - LX Over 65s 3

The teams changed ends after the toss, so presumably one of the captains was determined to take a specific end (apparently **Phil Hall** wanted to play downhill!!). ABs attacked early and a hard-hit cross from **Paul Bateson** was deflected over the bar by John Peirce. ABs were defending well through **Phil Hall**, making a welcome return to hockey after 2 years, and **Frank Colwill**; though an LX attack down the ABs' left resulted in a shot from **Martin Hall** that went wide. **Brian Hopkins** was making good runs down the right and from one of his attacks **Trevor Denison** passed to **Robin Conway** who had a reverse stick shot but to no avail.

A sprightly start to the 2nd quarter by LX saw them attack the ABs' 'D' early, but **Brian Hopkins** intercepted a pass and pushed it on to a LX foot to relieve the pressure. **Mike Christie** picked the ball up in midfield only to be stopped halfway into LXs' half. However, this was a rare foray out of our half and the pressure on the ABs' defence intensified. Tricky skills by **Nick Kennerley** for LX followed by a reverse stick shot was well saved by keeper **John Chong**. Meanwhile back in the ABs dugout **Robin** and others were busy goading LX skipper **Dave Lees** about passing the ball to stick!

ABs had a couple more forays into the LX half, but then they retaliated and won a penalty corner. **Alan Sutton** calmly blocked the shot and cleared. Following a miss by the LX's **Martin Hall** in the ABs' 'D', we had a quick flurry of possession before the ball went back to **Martin**. He took the ball back into the ABs' 'D' and passed to another LX player whose shot was saved by **John Chong**, but the rebound was picked up by **Martin Hall** who flicked it over the prone keeper. ABs 0 LX 1. In truth this was a difficult quarter for ABs with LX dominant most of the time, as the half came to a close.

The third quarter started with both teams testing each other out until a long ball found LX's **Martin Hall** but **Stewart Flisher** saved the day with a fine tackle on the top of the 'D'. Soon after another good LX attack with excellent short passing resulted in a shot by **Ian**, that gave **Chongy** in goal no chance. ABs 0 LX 2.

A nice attack started by **Robin Conway** resulted in a run down the left by **Trevor Denison**, who delivered a beautiful cross to **Balbir Singh**, but he was well tackled by an LX defender. In the last minutes LX had another half chance in the circle and dutifully increased their lead with a reverse stick shot. ABs 0 LX 3.

ABs brought on **Mike Verity** to add some dynamism to the midfield in the final quarter and this change soon led to a shot on goal by **Mike Christie**. LX then had a good attack all the way from their 23 but misplayed their final pass into the ABs' 'D'. Play was now more or less evenly balanced between the two teams although the LX passing was probably better thought out and directed. **Mike Verity** made a good run to close in on goal but couldn't control his

flicked shot. LX retaliated with a run along the ABs' back line, but **John Chong** was wise to it and blocked the run and ABs regained possession. **Steve Taylor** then made a run down the right and passed to **Mike Verity**, who shot just wide. The next AB attack led to **Balbir** winning a penalty corner; ABs had the ball in the back of the net but the shot was ruled to be too high. The game ended on a high with **Mike Christie** making an astounding reverse stick pass on the run to **Trevor Denison**, but no goal resulted; and the game duly ended with ABs drawing the 4th quarter.

Man of the Match: John Chong

Special Mentions (from both games): Steve Taylor, Robin Conway and Bruce Baron.

John Chong (Gk), Allan Sutton, Mike Christie, Steve Taylor, Mike Handley, Trevor Denison, Frank Colwill, Robin Conway, Brian Hopkins, Mukesh Phakey, Richard Turner, John Peirce, Balbir Singh, David Read, Phil Hall, Bruce Baron, Paul Bateson and Stewart Flisher.

Umpires: Graham Reynolds and Pete Dawes.

Note takers: Paul Bateson, John Peirce, Frank Colwill and Tony Taig.

Supporters: Karen Daly; Alison Baron, Diane Boutcher, Trevor Davies, Julia Bateson, German Singh and Clive Kendall.



ABs needing instructions



Mike Christie in motion



Give us a clue, Jan?



Composed, balanced, now what?



Composed, balanced, now what?



Composed, balanced, now what?



Missed that fly!!



Got it, no problem.



Sorry, going this way