

Sunday 25th September 2016

Bridgnorth 3 Ancient Britons 3

ABs commenced their annual fixture at the Meadow at Bridgnorth, on the well prepared grass pitch, in convincing style and soon pressed hard despite occasionally being troubled by the pace of the Bridgnorth front men. Skipper Clive Kendall was using his 14 man squad astutely and only the powerhouse central midfield of Bruce Baron and Billy Jawanda played the whole match.

Among the early starters were 'surprise surprise' Frank Colwill, there 75 minutes before the start with the added responsibility of bringing 'guest' Umpire, Steve Hopkins. However Graham Reynolds must have been having 'Sunday Brunch' as ABs began with out a GK.

ABs scored twice in the first quarter – first Billy Jawanda took a push in, ran it towards goal before slipping to Paul Sharratt who crashed home. At this stage ABs were dominant – now with a goalkeeper, a solid defence of Hall, the ever tackling Sutton, Kendall and Smith. Bruce Baron and Billy Jawanda taking central midfield allowing Paul Woodward and David Read time and space to link and create attacks down the right, leaving Man of the Match Peter Danson calm and accurate at left side of midfield.

ABs soon scored again from one of their endless penalty corners, Sharratt striking firmly into goal. 2-0 should have been plain sailing but chances came and went, penalty corners came and went. Frank Colwill, Mike Heywood and Billy Jawanda all shot narrowly wide and Dudley Walker was actually on the goal line with the opportunity of tapping the ball into the empty net. Sadly it didn't happen and as the ABs started to fiddle in their own half, defensive sloppiness allowed a good passing movement by Bridgnorth down their left to develop and the arrears were reduced by 'loanee' Neil Jenkins. Fortunately the ABs struck back with an open play goal from Billy Jawanda.

That should have been it. 3-1 up, and for the last quarter just hit the ball into the corners, especially as playing on grass. But no, the ABs let in a bobbler from a penalty corner, scored by Martin Hall. It then rained quite heavily and your reporter retreated under cover only to miss the home side's equaliser from Martin Eyke. So a 3-3 draw, and although ABs should have wrapped things up in the first half, Bridgnorth did dominate the last quarter as ABs tired.

The day continued in excellent style at the Club's hostelry with good food and company. It was good to see ABs ladies supporting and all ABs were wished 'Bon Voyage' for the coming trip to Italy.

Graham Reynolds, Phil Hall, Allan Sutton, Clive Kendall, Vince Smith, Paul Woodward, Billy Jawanda, Bruce Baron, David Read, Peter Danson, Frank Colwill, Paul Sharratt, Mike Heywood, Dudley Walker.

Supporters: Trevor & Angela Davies, Jackie Colwill, Karen Daly, Ann Lewis, Chris Heywood, Julia Hopkins, & Pam Sutton.

David (two beds) Read is your journalist for the day, ably assisted by his glamorous assistant Karen Daly.

Captain's comments.

Delighted to see that Karen Daly's match notes didn't end up in David (two beds) washing machine & enabled speedy submission of this fine report. Thank you to you both.

At the conclusion of the meal I took the opportunity to thank Anthony Swales the Bridgnorth captain & the Club for arranging this replacement fixture & after match hospitality at short notice. Additionally I expressed the ABs gratitude for their support in providing two sides at our AGM weekend in July of this year.

The efforts of the two umpires were acknowledged & I thought that they did very well to cope with a few verbals emanating mainly from the level 3 umpire playing for our opponents. Hopefully we will see Steve Hopkins (Stourport HC) officiating again in the future with the added bonus that he seems able to get Frank Colwill to the match in good time.

Trevor Davies was present to support & squeeze monies out of members at the end of the game & I'm pleased that he managed to find time to sit down & enjoy the post-match food. Trevor's efforts are always much appreciated by me.

Some of us are off to Italy on tour shortly & no doubt will take the opportunity to toast absent friends. To those not present, I wish you good health & a comfortable injury free winter.

Clive