

Sunday 26th March 2017

Bristol and West HC 10 v Ancient Britons (Chairman's X1) 1

Winterbourne International Academy

Everyone was welcomed to Bristol with tea or coffee and croissants or buns, kindly supplied by Sue and Mervyn Adams. But the sad news was that some of the ABs were "lost" somewhere on the M5.



Unfortunately 6 players were a tad late. Some believed that Mike Wingent had gone to extra lengths to stop the Midlands players.

The match should have started at 1.30 pm, but because half our team (Phil Hall, Brian Hopkins, Bruce Baron, Lee Baron, Clive Kendall & Paul Woodward) were stuck in a traffic jam on the M5, and unlikely to arrive until at least after 3 pm, we eventually agreed to start at 2.30 pm and borrowed 3 players from Bristol & West, hoping our stranded colleagues would arrive by half-time! No chance!

Having been on the astro for over an hour, in the brilliant sunshine, before the game started, some of us were grateful to share Russell's sun cream.

The first half was quite reasonable really with a scoreline of one to us and two to them. Mervyn had to make quite a few good saves; centre-back Mike Handley was dominant in tackling and passing, ably supported by Frank Colwill, Jon Beale and Russell Gates. The midfield of Tim Crabbe, Mike Christie, Peter Danson and Paul Wakeley were doing reasonably well, John Peirce got into the 'D' on several occasions and young Harvey Fraser scored our only goal after a great solo run, dribbling past several players.

However, even though we appreciated at half-time that we probably needed to mark better and try and gain more possession, little did we realise that we would concede another eight goals in the second half, two in the first two minutes. The ABs did have several chances from shots in the circle, 2 penalty corners and a penalty stroke saved by the keeper, but couldn't add to our score.

In conclusion, it appeared that the younger Bristol & West team had more energy in the second half, and we did miss the presence of the 6 stranded players on the M5, but everyone enjoyed the match nevertheless.

A big thanks to Mervyn & Sue for providing pre-match drinks / cakes; to Andy Howie for umpiring and to Bristol & West for the hospitality afterwards (by which time the unlucky M5 contingent had arrived) in the clubhouse of drinks / beef chilli & rice.

Mervyn Adams (GK)

Frank Colwill (sweeper)

Jon Beale (right)

Mike Handley (centre)

Russell Gates (left)

Paul Wakeley (Guest)

Peter Danson

Tim Crabbe (Guest)

Mike Christie

John Pierce (Captain)

Harvey Fraser (Guest)

Supporters were Sue Adams, Angela Castleton, Sue Danson, Lynne Christie, plus Sharon Wingent for the opposition.

The Ladies voted young borrowed player, Harvey Fraser, Man of the Match.

Umpire: Andie Howie.

Match Report by Peter Danson.

The ABs were short of certain players but fortunately John Peirce managed to escape the Fleet Marathon to turn up and captain the side. Rumour has it he decided to run the Marathon as it was quicker than by car.

Frank Colwill also managed to surprise, by being in front of the majority of Midlands players. This was because he had a "cunning plan". Whereas most people put their clocks forward 1 hour, Frank put his forward 2 hours giving him time to stop at the Services for breakfast. On leaving the Services Frank had the M5 to himself. Frank also had total pitch time as he played at sweeper, so he now realises just like Farmers, what is like to "clean up" after others.

Paul Sharratt unfortunately cried off late, even though he was injured for the game on Saturday. Paul, who has a new number for the back of his AB shirt "CMXCIX", may also be unavailable for certain matches in the future as he has been elected President of the local Neighbourhood Watch.