

Sunday 12th August 2018

LX Over 60s 2 v Ancient Britons 0

Prior to the game ABs had lost the services of **Jan Ahmed, Tony Taig and Billy Jawanda** so were down to a squad that had to be involved in both games.

Unfortunately the first game didn't start too well as LX won a penalty corner after 2 minutes after a cross hit the foot of **Mike Handley**. A poor injection seemed to have averted the danger but a pass back into the circle found the ABs on the wrong side and a reverse stick shot by **Stuart Perry** gave **John Chong** no chance. ABs were not too disheartened and slowly got a foothold on the game as the midfield of **Bruce Baron** and **Billy Sedgwick** started to get control. A slick through ball by **Brian Hopkins** found **Paul Sharratt** in space but his shot was deflected wide, when there were better options; e.g. pass the ball right to the free man. **Billy Sedgwick** took the long corner and found **Paul Woodward** who drove into the circle to win a short corner. **Brian Hopkins** injected, **Paul Sharratt** slipped the ball left to **Chris Szpak** who committed the keeper but sadly fired the ball wide. ABs were gaining control but LX still kept them at bay and broke quickly forcing **Allan Sutton** into a desperate lunge as timber hit timber and a penalty corner was awarded. A diving save from **John Chong** thwarted the danger for a long corner which fortunately came to nothing as the first quarter ended.

Skipper **Bruce Baron** gathered the troops and reminded all for the need to keep possession.

The 2nd quarter began with ABs pushing forward and a driving run by **Chris Szpak** into the circle brought a deserved penalty corner which LX keeper managed to block. From the "16" LX broke again and forced a penalty corner which was scrambled clear by **John Chong**. ABs seemed to be getting more of the ball but still left gaps at the back, but **German Singh** and **Allan Sutton** were calm and collected to keep the score the same. Towards the end of the quarter a good move from **Paul Woodward** almost put **Billy Sedgwick** in the clear and in on goal, but even after a "whippet-like" sprint the ball just beat him to the goal line.

Bruce made sure that all took on liquid refreshment before issuing the changes for the second half. Sadly this didn't start too well as LX, now playing downhill, upped the tempo winning a long corner, which fortunately came to nothing. ABs were still in the game with slick passing moves but the final pass was the one that went astray. **Nirmal Singh** was showing good control in the midfield, driving forward at pace and a slick move with **Paul Woodward** nearly brought the equaliser but the shot was saved and the danger cleared. This quarter was not the greatest to watch

as later in the quarter, several AB passes were wayward giving LX the chance to gain a stranglehold forcing the ABs back onto the defensive.

At the start of the last quarter LX had a great chance to increase the lead but fortunately the forward overran the ball. ABs did mount the occasional attack and **Paul Woodward** won a penalty corner after good interplay from **Nirmal Singh** and **Brian Hopkins**. A sharp shot from **Paul Sharratt** was reached by the LX keeper and deflected just wide. Back came LX and after winning a short corner **John Chong** and **German Singh** combined to clear the danger. ABs still kept pushing uphill and slick pass from **Nirmal Singh** found **Paul Woodward** in space in the circle but the defender just managed to dispossess him and clear the ball wide. Soon after LX were back down the other end and managed to find the net, but the goal was disallowed, apparently for “feet”. **Chris Szpak, Bruce Baron and Paul Sharratt** combined well but the final ball failed to find the intended receiver, a case of “yet again”. As LX attacked once again, **Chris Szpak** won the ball and with **Peter Reid** breaking quickly alongside they mounted a counter attack. A pass wide found **Paul Sharratt** in space, but the final pass to **Brian Hopkins** again failed to reach the target. As the game was coming to a close, LX came back again. A cross into the circle saw a snap shot saved by **Phil Hall** but the rebound fell to another forward, but his shot was also blocked by **Phil**, sadly falling to the same player, **Kevin Coleman**, who this time smashed the ball home. A fair result but the ABs were not disgraced at all.

John Chong, Bruce Baron, Phil Hall, German Singh, David Read, Allan Sutton, Chris Szpak, Paul Woodward, Billy Sedgwick, Peter Reid, Mike Handley, Nirmal Singh, Paul Sharratt, Brian Hopkins; Robin Conway (2nd Game Only)

Men of the Match:

Our thanks to Trevor Denison for his organisation.

Our thanks also to Umpires Chris Kitto & Graham Reynolds.

The various match note takers -- Phil Hall, Brian Hopkins, Chris Szpak and Mike Handley on the 1st Game.

Nirmal Singh, Brian Hopkins, Paul Woodward and Allan Sutton for the 2nd Game.

Supporters: Karen Daly, Hazel Hopkins and Jane Kitto.