

Sunday 12th August 2018

LX Over 65s 2 v Ancient Britons 1

ABs started well moving the ball around from right to left, forwards and backwards until a **German Singh** through pass was intercepted by an LX defender. LX then took control for the about 5 minutes as they pinned ABs back into their own half, but the defence held firm keeping them at bay. It was at this point that the tackling from both sides became a little agricultural as tiredness crept in; but it did show that the game was very competitive. As the quarter came to a close ABs started to up the tempo but the whistle soon gave them a chance to have a minute rest.

Bruce was a man of few words on this occasion asking for all to try and keep possession.

Sadly the 2nd quarter did not start well for the ABs as they soon fell behind. A breakaway by AB “whippet and loanee” **Trevor Denison** set up the chance for **Tony Neeve** to strike home. Even though now on the back foot ABs still pushed forward and they won a penalty corner. A quick injection saw a fierce shot from **Paul Sharratt** being deflected wide by keeper **David Webb**. LX came back again created bit of chaos in the circle but **German Singh** managed to scramble the ball clear after **John Chong** had saved well. After a period of AB possession **Paul Woodward** set off up the right wing following it with a sharp cross into the circle but there were no “whippets” in the vicinity. ABs soon regained the ball and forced LX to concede a penalty corner after a stick tackle. A discussion then took place between the Umpires, **Chris Kitto** and **Graham Reynolds** and the decision was changed to a penalty stroke. **Paul Sharratt** strode forward and calmly slid the ball under the keeper’s despairing dive. 1-1. The quarter came to a close with LX back on the attack but just before the whistle **John Chong** again came to the rescue with a fine diving save.

Skipper **Bruce Baron** now called upon his troops for 30 more minutes of sustained effort, reminding all of the need for quality and possession. Sadly it was LX that were first out of the blocks but a good save from **John Chong** was calmly cleared off the line by **Allan Sutton**. A sustained period of pressure from LX led to their 2nd goal. A crossfield pass by **Phil Hall** went astray and as ABs tried to reorganise, the ball kept rebounding like in a pinball machine, before the final touch from **Peter Glading** found the net. LX

were now on top and a further short corner was well saved by **John Chong**. ABs did manage the occasional break and on one occasion **David Read** went speedily down the right side before crossing into the circle, but a touch from an LX stick averted the danger. From the sideline ABs kept up the attack and a snap shot from **Brian Hopkins** was again saved by **David Webb**. Another attack down the left by **Chris Szpak** nearly gave **Paul Sharratt** a chance but yet again an outstretched stick averted the danger. As the quarter came to a close LX increased the pressure but **Mike Handley, Phil Hall and Allan Sutton** held firm.

The final quarter began with LX in control but clever defending by the ABs pushed them back into their own half. Eventually AB pressure told as they regained possession but the final shot went wide. The game now swung back and forth as both teams tired, but a breakaway by LX was well saved and the rebound was scrambled clear. Even though the 1 goal down, ABs were still in the game and a quick attack down the right saw the cross into the circle fumbled by the LX defender but the rebound fell kindly and they managed to clear. The game was now very open with lots of backwards and forwards by both teams, but LX did manage to win a penalty corner but the intricate slip left was spotted by the ABs and after a block by **John Chong, Allan Sutton** cleared the ball wide. The game came to a close with ABs on the attack but the final shot again was well saved.

A thoroughly enjoyable game and overall a thoroughly enjoyable day albeit 2 defeats, but the ABs could walk off the pitch with their heads held high.

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.