

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**LX Over 60s 0 v Ancient Britons 1**

Prior to the game there were several emails re the Covid virus and players had so many rules to follow, never mind having to respecting the Umpires. For the first 7 minutes the game was fairly even, then a clever lay-back from **Tony Taig** to **David Knott**, whose through ball almost found **Nirmal Singh** in space; but just out of reach (or did the 'Dambuster Bounce' beat him). LX responded with pressure but **Steve Taylor** safely cleared to **David Knott** and the break was on; a quick pass to **Robin Conway** and ABs were surely on the move. Sadly **Robin Conway** decided to bring the opposition into the game with a subtle back-pass which no AB player read but LX did. Fortunately **Richard Boucher** was on hand to clear the danger. LX kept pushing forward and were rewarded with a short corner, well saved by **Richard Boucher**; but a further short was awarded. A subtle (or was it) attempt by **Mike Handley** sadly led to another but the defence held firm. As the quarter came to a close, ABs' midfield pushed forward and a pull back by **Knotty** gave **Tony Taig** a sharp chance but the LX keeper saved well.

ABs began the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter on the front foot and a quick 1-2 between **David Knott** and **Tony Taig** saw **Tony** drag the ball back beating the LX defender, but not fairly according to the Umpire, so no short corner. An attack by LX saw AB reprobate **Mike Wingent** entering the circle but his shot went safely wide. Yet again **Tony Taig** and **David Knott** combined up front but the dangerous cross from **Tony** evaded forwards and defenders. As the game ebbed and flowed, the pace of the game increased and **Chris Szpak** had to take a rest after stretching to intercept. **Richard Boucher** was called upon to make a sharp save and then **David Knott** was body-checked winning a short. A slip pass to skipper **Paul Sharratt** was fired well wide. Not long after **Mike Handley** also had to take time off as he stretched to make a winning tackle. As the 1<sup>st</sup> half came to an end, **Nirmal Singh** had a snap shot well saved; whilst **Richard Boucher** cleared safely wide. 0-0.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter began similarly with both sides pushing forwards and stretching defences with **Steve Taylor** making a couple of important interceptions to avert all danger. Sadly this saw the next casualty as **Stewart Flisher** decided enough was enough with an injury. This uneventful quarter came to a close with both sides now beginning to feel the heat with LX making several substitutions.

The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and still very warm, but ABs felt they had the upper hand and duly took the lead. Yet again it was the **David Knott** and **Tony Taig** partnership, with **Tony** slipping the ball home to go 1 up. Now LX took up the mantle and increased the tempo forcing short after short after short, but ABs had **Tayls** and twice he calmly cleared the danger, culminating in his Man of the Match Award in an AB victory. 1-0.

Richard Boucher (GK), Paul Sharratt, David Knott, Robin Conway, Tony Taig, Stewart Flisher, Peter George-Jones, Chris Szpak, Nirmal Singh, Mike Handley, Steve Taylor, Peter Reid, Brian Hopkins, Trevor Denison & Jan Ahmed.

## **LX Over 65s      2      v      Ancient Britons      2**

From the start ABs were under pressure and LX utilised their slick inter passing to create their first goal with only 3 minutes on the clock. Sadly this was a subtle deflection from **El Presidente**, his first touch of a ball for a while and he gave it to the opposition and **Nick King** netted. 0-1. From the restart ABs worked hard with **Jan Ahmed** controlling the midfield. Both sides had equal share of possession but neither could cross the line of the circle. LX did manage to get the ball into the circle but it kept going, missed by everyone. When ABs did manage to force their way into the LX circle, **John Peirce** didn't get a decent enough touch as the ball went over the back-line. When LX did win their first penalty corner, ABs defended well with **Allan Sutton and Frank Colwill** quickly out, moving the ball forward to **Jan Ahmed**, who attacked at pace but the final pass was just out of reach. LX won a further short corner but fortunately for ABs it went just wide as the defence looked on. Could the ABs equalise before the end, YES they could.

Dispossessing an LX attack, **Jan Ahmed** spotted **Richard Turner** on the run and his accurate pass into his path saw **Richard** deflect the ball home. 1-1.

LX began the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter on the offensive but stalwart ABs defending saw off 2 penalty corners and numerous long corners. A break by **Trevor Denison** and a finely placed pass gave **John Peirce** the chance to deflect home, but the LX keeper saved well. Another LX attack saw the ball crossed into the AB circle and as it was deflected upwards, a fine pull shot by **Phil Hall** (to the boundary for 4), cleared the danger. The danger wasn't over and a strong block by **Phil Hall** saw yet again the ball arrive in the control of LX player **Nick Kennerley** who waltzed around the back before crossing for an easy tap-in for **Peter Glading** as the 1<sup>st</sup> half came to an end. 1-2.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter began quietly; a few tired legs after several months off, but **Trevor Denison** was still firing on all cylinders and a sharp break round the back of the LX defence culminated in a short corner, or so he thought, but not the Umpire (see pic below). A good run by **Mike Christie** with dazzling stickwork (it never moved) led to a clever pass to **John Peirce** but he pulled the ball wide. **Mukesh** then used his pace to slip past a couple of defenders before releasing **Richard Turner** but his flick shot was well saved. This quarter was relatively uneventful as the ABs and LX kept slugging it out. 1-2.

The final quarter and a last throw of the dice and on came **Knotty**, whose first effort was a penalty corner but above the backboard. Another break and a quick ball to **Richard Turner** who slipped it to **Jan Ahmed** but surprisingly to the spectators, he missed it. **Jan**

**Ahmed** tried to make up for it and after **Peter Reid** crossed, he swivelled and reverse sticked it narrowly wide. LX then won a short corner after **German Singh** was penalised for a dangerous clearance (unfairly to most), but **Brian Hopkins** was up to the task and reading the LX play, he calmly intercepted and swept the ball upfield. **Jan Ahmed** had yet another sharp chance with a first time shot but the keeper cleared the danger. Time was running out but ABs won a further short corner which was only partially cleared. ABs pounced on the loose ball, moved it from left to right and found **David Knott** just inside the circle ready to lob over the advancing keeper for a grand 2-2 result. After the game **Paul Sharraff** awarded Man of the Match jointly to **John Chong** and **Trevor Denison**.

John Chong(GK), Mike Christie, Allan Sutton, German Singh, Trevor Denison, Richard Turner, Brian Hopkins, Jan Ahmed, Mukesh Phakey, Frank Colwill, Phil Hall, John Peirce, David Knott, Mike Handley, Peter Reid & Steve Taylor.

Men of the Match: Steve Taylor (Over 60s); Trevor Denison and John Chong (Over 65s).

Our thanks to Trevor Denison & Mike Leatt for their organisation.

Our thanks also to Umpire: Graham Reynolds, Peter Dawes & Alan Jarrold.

The various match note takers – Peter Reid, Tony Taig and Phil Hall.

Supporters: Clive Kendall, Karen Daly, Diane Boucher and Lou Handley.



How to reverse tackle



"This is how to do it"



And Richard pushed it wide



Concentration



Off you go, ball



And at full stretch



One Handed as usual



What, NO SHORT??



Up, Up and Away





**Beating 2 with ease**



**Going at 50 Knotts !!**



**Bye Bye Ball**



**And still balanced**



**Go Peter, Go.**



**And do what Paul ??**



**Know what, I'll pass back**



**Woking up speed (get it)**



**OK, all yours, Anybody??**

