

Saturday 20th August 2016

WOKING PITTS 0 - ANCIENT BRITONS 1

The M25 lived up to its terrible reputation giving many ABs horrendous journeys. Slowly the team arrived in dribs and drabs which seemed to set the tone for the match to follow.

It was a pleasure to welcome Chris, Clive's son, as a guest player and his youthful exuberance; ball skills and superb fitness were obviously inherited, but not necessarily from Clive.

The first quarter started brightly with the midfield of Woody, Robin, Chris and Tim Mobbs dominating. Good inter-passing led to a short corner which German thundered towards the goal. His shot beat the Woking keeper but ex AB Paul Bloomfield calmly stopped the ball on the goal line to keep it out.

This seemed to inspire our toe nail painted keeper Mervyn, or Maddie as he now likes to be called who, in turn, made a fine save to keep us in the match. Secretly he was hoping for a draw to give him a chance to shine in a penalty shootout. I caught a glimpse of his notes taped to his water bottle.



The first quarter ended with lacklustre and very little penetration into the tightly defended Woking circle. Captain Clive, who seemed to have over celebrated the ladies gold medal the night before, gathered the team together at the end of the first quarter to deliver the first of his three motivational team talks. Three ABs fainted, one cried and Jon threw up. The talks were compared with Donald Trump trying to persuade Mexicans to vote for him.

The second and third quarters continued in the same vein with the ABs defence of Russ, Phil, Clive and German solid as usual and the midfield dominating. Frank up front continued to confuse the opposition with his stick skills but still the tight Woking defence could not be breached. At the end of the third quarter Robin suggested that Chris be rested to tempt Woking to come forward out of defence and his cunning plan seemed to work. German was pressing high and after a quick precise pass from Phil, rifled a long pass to Frank on the

penalty spot who cleverly deflected it into the net for a goal and what proved to be the match winner.

This was not the finest performance by the ABs, hence the lack newsworthy reporting by me. Thanks to Jackie Woodward for your copious notes and I suspect the quantity perhaps reflected the long gaps between the “action” on the pitch?

The ABs team spirit was ever present. I personally always find it rewarding to play for the ABs who, despite many different line-ups, always perform with good spirit, fairness and encouragement.

Many thanks Woking, who included John Peirce, Paul Bloomfield AND ex AB Tony Handley, for their excellent hospitality, the ladies for supporting and to Clive and Phil for their hard work in organising these fixtures.

Author - Jon Beale.

Mervyn Adams, Phil Hall, Clive Kendall, Russell Gates, Paul Woodward, German Singh, Chris Kendall, Robin Conway, Tim Mobbs, Richard Turner, Frank Colwill and Jon Beale.

Man of the Match: Tim Mobbs

Supporters: Sue Adams, Angela Castleton, Jackie Woodward, Ruth Conway, Avril Mobbs, Dudley Walker, Mukesh Phakey and Julia Greenhough.

Captain's comments:-

I would like to extend my gratitude to the following particularly as my after match focus was concentrated on recruitment rather than a post-match speech.

Woking Pitts & their captain Joe Dunne for again hosting this enjoyable annual fixture.

The two umpires provided by Woking.

Russ Gates for dealing with match & party monies.

Jackie Woodward for her copious match notes.

Jon Beale for his prompt & succinct match report.

My son Chris for giving up his day's cricket to help us out when injuries drastically reduced our original squad. I can certainly claim credit for nurture here if nature has to be discounted.

John Peirce for organizing & hosting the evening party much enjoyed by a number of AB & Woking members.

John Peirce, Paul and Betty Bloomfield, Mukesh & Neeru Phakey for the provision of overnight accommodation.

Following input from the supporters the Man of the Match award went to Tim Mobbs with Jon Beale also putting in a fine performance.