

1st A Birmingham Boys' Brigade Boxing Day Football 26th December 2019



Lying in bed on a cold Boxing Day morning listening to the pouring rain outside I'm sure there were a few people wondering what stud length to use on their boots and a few thinking how many waterproof coats can I get on and still get my football shirt over them. However, the Old Boys' no longer with us were looking down on us today and stopped the rain whilst we played the game, it was still a bit nippy though!

The usual warm up comprising hitting a few balls across the field and dodging Joe's frisbee, teams were decided, once again the old's taking on the youngsters. Mr Clarke said a short prayer remembering Mr P, who we dedicate this fixture too, also asking for the game to be played in the usual Boys' Brigade way, I was wondering why the Ambulance had parked up across the road!



The youngsters decided they were taking the kick off and within a few seconds were attacking the goal and it didn't take long for the goalkeeper to be diving into the mud. A couple of other chances for the youngsters, but none of them taken. The olds break and after a few passes the ball lands at the feet of Paul who manages to squeeze it past Tommy who was in goal for the youngsters. There were no real chances until the youngsters got a few bodies in the box, the ball landing at Joe's feet and he drove it into the middle of the goal for the equaliser. Immediately Simon decides Andy should no longer be the keeper, not because of the goal, his hands were getting cold!

Gill was seen running across the field, Simon thought she was warming up ready to come on for the second half, but alas she was chasing after Lenox and Sebastian who nearly made it all the way to the river!

A few more chances and the olds were once again on the attack, a shot from left of the goal was heading for goal until Tom "The Cat" Mcloughlin pounced on the ball with a superb save. The olds eventually working out how to get the ball past Tom to take the lead. It did not last long before the youngsters drew level just before the half time whistle was blown.

Tea, coffee, Bovril and biscuits and the usual discussions of who should have scored and Tom's super save. Before long the whistle was blown and Albert took on the role of referee, don't worry there won't be any decisions to be made, just blow up after 30 minutes, he was told!



The younger players were falling by the wayside and the playpark was starting to fill up and the olds started passing the ball around knocking in a few goals. The youngsters started rotating the goalkeeper, Tom's saves from the first half and a few dives in the second half causing a few rib issues.

The new ref had a few decisions to make about the height of the crossbar and started to get abuse from the players, even the supporters started giving him some abuse for not keeping up with play. Albert just smiled at them and continued to give some good decisions based on where he thought the goals were located on the pitch, which was possibly not where the white goal posts were actually positioned!



The youngsters started to get frustrated and a few hard challenges were made, which the ref managed to spot, Jordan at one point had three of the youngsters around him, hacking at his ankles, but still managed to lay the ball off to one of his team.

The ref eventually giving a countdown for the final 20 seconds of the game and blew the whistle, three cheers for the 1st A youngsters and as Sam put it "the pensioners", handshakes all-round and the obligatory team photo.

Many thanks to Simon for the kit, Mr & Mrs Clarke for refreshments, Albert for refereeing and all the players and supporters for attending. Once again, a super game played in the true BB spirit, and no need for the Ambulance.