

Sunday 21st May 2017

Chipwrecks 0 Ancient Britons 5

A short story written by Bill Sedgwick:

George Bernard Shaw once said, "We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing". On Sunday at Chippenham a group of effervescent hockey players of all ages arrived to do battle and give testimony to the belief that we must keep playing and grow old disgracefully.

Our leader was Bruce Baron who led from the front for the whole day and displayed all the qualities of a future captain. The weather was lovely and with the warmth of the sun helping our old bones, ibuprofen and co-codamol relieving the pain and the cheers and encouragement of the supporters we set about Chipwrecks. A good start was made with everyone successfully finishing off a glass of port.

In the first quarter we had 3 short corners with Trevor Denison's shots saved by the goal keeper and a slip left intercepted by a Chipwrecks defender. There were several other good chances with Brian Hopkins and Mike Wingent shooting just wide. There were many wonderful flowing moves down both sides of the pitch with Mike to Mike to Mike with a shot from Mike. The defence was solid with Steve Russell making several good tackles.



One moment did stand out when the author went for an outrageous dummy from a pass from Paul Woodward and successfully let it go to a Chipwrecks player. The only dummy was Billy himself, but the drop of the shoulder even committed the subs bench, who also bought it. An even greater mistake was committing the act in front of the bench who proceeded to laugh in a very sympathetic and supportive manner (no picture available – too fast).

The score at the end of the first quarter was an unbelievable 0-0.

In the second quarter ABs stayed on top but Chipwrecks started to come more into the game and Richard Boucher made several good saves. However early on in the quarter Brian Hopkins moved swiftly onto a poor Chipwrecks hit out, passed to Tom Ettling who shot and scored from a narrow angle. Finally a goal and just rewards for our efforts.



However there can be no doubt that it was much more of an even game as we moved through the quarter with Richard Boucher earning his match fee with several good saves and clearances. ABs still had chances at the other end and Tom Ettling nearly reached a great pass from Paul Woodward. However our game became a little long and not the short pass flowing moves of the early part of the game. To be fair to Chipwrecks it was their endeavour and hard running that caused this. Score is 1-0 to the ABs.

At half time we had a pep talk from both Clive and Bruce to 'gird your loins' and continue to play our passing game. Some of us were slightly traumatised by the phrase 'running and passing' especially Paul Sharratt. However more about that later.

Again with renewed vigour ABs went on the attack and Paramjit Hayre launched an excellent attack after another successful tackle by Steve Russell.

Bruce Baron had a good shot on target and Mike Wingent who has a deceptive running style (yes he is one that can actually run) scored a good goal.

Score is 2-0 to the ABs.



After a Chipwrecks short corner had broken down, ABs raced down at full speed to the other end and won a short corner. Trevor Denison's shot was deflected into the net and after a conversation between the Umpires, the goal was given. 3-0 to the ABs.



Chipwrecks undaunted got back into the game again and had a high shot go wide. At this point Clive Kendall, trying to light a cigarette, shouted at the team and standing up, dropped his papers everywhere. The game again seemed to swing towards Chipwrecks with a couple of short corners and some half chances. However Richard made good saves and Paramjit, Paul Woodward and Phil Hall good clearances. A breath-taking finish to the third quarter.

Score is still 3-0 to the ABs.

During the break the talk was of consolidation, winning 3-0 was a good result and parking the bus across the goal, Italian style, might be a good strategy.

However this quarter belonged a lot to Paul Sharratt who translated this team talk into 2 and nearly 3 (greedy) goals. After Billy (unfortunately that's me) lost the ball on the 22 after over doing a dribble, Chipwrecks had a short corner which again was saved. Paul who had taken the notion of 'running and passing' to heart was standing all alone on the top of their D and after receiving a long pass, he allowed the keeper to advance towards him and skilfully lobbed him for an excellent goal. Running - 0 yards. ABs winning 4-0.



Then Paul a few minutes after the restart received the ball on the edge of the D accelerated, yes I did say accelerated, past 2 defenders and shoots - GGGOOOAAALLL!!!! ABs now winning 5-0. Again Chipwrecks came back at us and Richard made another good save from a short corner.



Then after a good ABs move Paul received the ball on the right side of the circle and he shoots,

goalkeeper saves, Paul shoots, goalkeeper saves, Paul shoots high and wide. For the rest of the game it was end to end stuff with half chances at both ends. Game finishes with ABs winning 5-0.

Everyone retired to the bar for good conversation, beer and food. An essential part of the day is the post-match socialising and catching up with people. A perfect end to the day.

Man of the match – Mike Wingent for his goals, work-rate, deceptive running and having hair that still has colour other than grey.

Many thanks to Clive Kendall and Bruce Baron for their organisation and to the partners and supporters for all their shouts of support.

Have a great summer. **Note Taker - John Peirce; Editor - Billy Sedgwick.**

Richard Boucher, Clive Kendall, Mike Handley, Paramjit Hayre, Billy Sedgwick, Brian Hopkins, Steve Russell, Paul Woodward, Trevor Denison, Bruce Baron, Phil Hall, Tom Ettling, Paul Sharratt, Mike Christie, Mike Wingent.

Goalscorers: Tom Ettling, Mike Wingent, Trevor Denison, Paul Sharratt (2).

Umpire – Graham Reynolds.

Supporters: Sharon Wingent, Jashinder Hayre, Diane Boucher, Angela Castleton, Karen Daly, Lou Handley, Chris Ettling, Tim Smaldon, John Peirce & Russell Gates.





Leading by Example



Skipper still got it



Visionary



Paul where are you?



Paul still can't see you



OK, I'll try myself



Time to break out



I'm coming with you



Now I need help, please



Triangles will work



Don't panic I have it



Good save President

Our thanks go to Chipwrecks for their hospitality after an enjoyable game which was closer than the scoreline suggests. ABs are looking forward to next year, especially if they can guarantee the weather.

Our thanks to both Umpires for not only controlling the game, but playing the advantage rule.

Finally our thanks to our loyal Supporters; and Diane Boutcher for her camera work.