

Rothwell FC 3 - 1 Walton

Rothwell came into this weeks game on the back of 5 consecutive wins, with no goals conceded in the last 4 (I think). They had played Walton in 2 of the last 4 so both teams were familiar. Rothwell manager Pitts had his 1st problem of the day when we turned up and gypsies had taken up temporary camp on the pitch. He made a deal that they could take the home changing rooms in exchange for 2 hours on the pitch. They accepted without viewing....they may regret no education when they do!

There were again changes to be made to the starting line up with that little welp Graham once again having his dinner at Nando's. Pitts knows and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken in good time. Dufton was again on leave because he cant find the pitch and Dopey still missing with issues to his elastic limbs. Rothwell welcomed back Liam Kelly for his 1st appearance of 2010....during the warm up it looked like longer!!

The game started and Rothwell hoped to be out of the starting blocks like "lunatics", but they were up against a 3rd successive Walton team and they had more minerals than the previous 2 teams we had played. Rothwell would not have this their own way today. The game started at a decent pace with both teams wrestling for control. Thackeray was once again leading the way from the middle but Kelly looked fatter than Langstaff this week in an unfamiliar central role. Walton fielded Kelly's twin up front which may again have lead to some confusion for the Rothwell players. The 1st chance fell to Thackeray however. Thackeray broke from his holding midfield role to show the attacking midfielders what they should be doing, and Young Bullock found him with a near perfect through ball. I think Thackerays run was too good for Bullock but Thackeray adjusted superbly to rifle in a shot on the slide just past the upright. Walton were rocked!!! Minutes later Rothwell took the lead when a ball from Langstaff over the top put Young bullock through on goal. He didn't need asking twice and lobbed the goalkeeper with aplomb. Excellent break through as the away players pleaded for offside....the skipper earning himself a booking for his troubles.

The rest of the half was again a tight contest. McCarthy made on notable superb save. The Rothwell defence held firm and didn't look too troubled too many times but the ease at which Walton were getting onto the back 4 was troubling. Tom Greaves, near cousin on Kelly and the Walton centre forward, was having a superb 1st half on his 1st start of the season. Don't put this lad on the scrapheap yet, he showed enough to suppose he's more than a decent prospect. Old Wooden legs was again marshalling his troops from the back and this would have done Greaves the world of good. Dufton was pretty nondescript at the back so I wont waste my column inches. Anyway, Rothwel still couldn't get control of the game. Robinson was showing a much better attitude this week ("high 5") but Kelly was suffering from canonlypassleftitis, which meant Arkle did little but show willing in the 1st half. He did make one woeful attempt on goal from a free kick, but everyone outside himself knows he needs the wind behind him to score free kicks.

The half time whistle blew and it wasn't too convincing from Rothell. A useful team talk took place and Rothwell were perfectly placed to be straight out of the traps second half....show some bouncebackability. Tragedy struck just minutes in however. A Walton free kick was swung into the box going straight towards goalkeeper

McCarthy when Old Wooden Legs lost his man. As the players turned to question him we realised he was stuck in the mud...who's fault is that? As the half went on it was one way traffic, the goal aside Walton did not have another attempt on Rothwells goal. Rothwell put plenty of balls in the box but the Walton defence held firm, until some smart passing in midfield between Matthew John Lloyd and Langstaff fed Thackeray who slid in Young Bullock to canter away. Bullock seemed to stop as the crowd urged him forward to score, it turns out he suffers from narcolepsy and had a brief attack, but came round in good time to finish superbly...this lad could go far!! Lets not beat around the bush, he was offside, but he had been pulled up a couple of times earlier unjustly and over a season they say these things even themselves out...so so what!! Thackeray let fly from 25 yards shotly after which just scraped the upright...he was just killing time though.

Rothwell were not in good control and looked to stay tight until the final whistle. Walton seemed out of ideas now and Rothwell were working hard to keep in front. Out of the blue a defensive error lead to the goalkeeper slicing straight to young Bullock who gleefully gobbled up his hat trick, the matchball and a free pint of bitter. The final whistle blew and this was a tough game to get through. This was no means pretty but were in a points game, and points win prizes. That's 6 in a row now and much better from the start.

Scorers – Bullock 3

MOM = Young Bullock

Donkey of the Week = tough to call but seen as Kel has an illness (canonlypassleftitis) it can go to Old wooden Legs for conceding our first goal in weeks!

Football Card winner - Opposition