

Rothwell FC 4 - 0 Horbury Cherry Tree

Horbury travelled to Methley sitting pretty on top of the league hoping for 3 points to continue their title push. Rothwell arrived on the back of 3 consecutive wins and were showing good form of late.

There were late withdrawals from Kelly, Tom Dufton and Dopey but Rothwell were boosted by the return of Langstaff from a self imposed exile. Although looking a little chubby we were short of a Lefty so he would have to do!! The nets were up, the balls were flat....kick off time.

The game started with not too much between the teams. Rothwell were maybe slightly on the back foot and struggled to get going early on. Old Wodden legs Drury had brought his slippers and lent a pair to "main man" Thackeray which did nothing for their balance in the early exchanges. As Cherry Tree pushed and had the best of the possession, im not sure McCarthy was too troubled in the Rothwell goal.

The 1st real chance of the game fell to Rothwell starlet Joe Bullock, the young man turning in some assured performances up top in the thankless lone striker position. Thackeray won the ball strong in midfield and lined up a left footed pile driver...and although many thought it was mishit, Thackeray actually slid a fine ball to Bullock who showed good feet and composure to shift the ball to his left and hammer against the woodwork. Rothwell were feeling their way back into the game and could have been in the lead. Simple Jack Dufton was having an outstanding game at centre half against one of the leagues finest strikers, as was little Sam Graham. They did not allow the Cherry strikers a second on the ball and repelling anything that came to them. Old wooden legs had the cigar out while McCarthy gave the goals a lick of paint.

Rothwell took the lead after Captain Marvell Roy of the Rovers Paul Arkle won a free kick down the Rothwell right. Arkle delivered the ball deep far post where Laim Robinson was on hand to nod the ball home. Robinson has had a troubled season with bum scars and marble issues....at least his bum has cleared up!! Rothwell finished the half strongly and went into half time one to the good against the league leaders....game on!

Rothwell started the second half strongly and scored again 10 minutes in. Young Bullock broke the offside trap and showed excellent composure again to slide the ball in off his heel....not the cleanest of strikes but this man will take it anyhow!!! Rothwell should have had a quick third but Thackeray played his through ball to a Rothwell substitute when well placed. Cherry rung the changes and tried to introduce a bit of pace...old wooden legs looked worried. However with young Graham bringing the sides average down to a respectable level he needn't worry.

Rothwell scored their 3rd of the game with 20 minutes left. Great work from Richards, who brought his lungs this week, lead to a clearance dropping kindly for Robinson to fire home his second from 6 yards....Rothwell now had a healthy lead and would look to hang on to this. Cherry continued to battle and but Rothwell under pressure, however the Rothwell midfield were back helping their defence with each Cherry attack that started. Rothwell scored a 4th goal after a break away, again lead by Young

Bullock. Definitely not showing any signs of tiring or fatigue...Bullock made a run down Rothwells right and fizzed a cross across goal which eventually found its way to Langstaff to bundle home. Langstaff couldn't breath moments earlier so one suspects he was still in the opponents penalty area from the previous attack. I'm not sure the Cherry keeper will want to see this again! Tom Greaves joined the fray with 10 to go after his club suspension for fraternising with the secretary and Ambler too joined after his alcohol dependency treatment. All is not lost for these 2 young men!

There was still time for Matthew John Lloyd to get his customary silly booking. His conduct will be the subject of internal investigation, as each booking causes much grief to the club mainly because we keep forgetting to pay them!