

23.1.10 - Walton 0 - 4 Rothwell

Rothwell travelled to Walton missing at least 5 players from their squad for this Cup game. The Leeds game at tottenham, baby births and in some cases, marble loss meant only one sub was available. Some of the team hadnt played for up to 6 weeks over the christmas period and this game always promised to be difficult.

There was a late change of pitch and once the sheep had been removed we were good to start. Rothwell were out of the traps quickly and never gave a much improved Walton side a second on the ball. It was nip and tuck for the 1st 10 mins with Thackeray leading his charges with some telling interceptions and tough tackling. Matty Lloyd once again nearly got shot by the Walton full back.....not the best of friends!

Rothwell made the break through after around 30 mins through big Joe Bullock. Headless chicken Ben Richards made great progress down the right wing before supplying a perfect ball for Bullock to power home a near post header....Rothwell 1, Walton 0 and the crowd were going wild!!! Ten minutes later, and Rothwell were 2 to the good. Thackeray cleared a corner to Lloyd who held the ball up well. Walton defenders struggled to cope with Lloyds rotundness all afternoon. Lloyd put Joe Bullock in down the wing and Thackeray showed greate desire with a lung-busting 70 yard run and then a smart finish.....they were chanting Thackerays name in the stands!!!

Half time came and Rothwell had put in a good shift. The second half started and Rothwell seemed to get dragged down a level, poor shape and some tired legs, not least old Wooden Legs Drury at the back. The game wasnt much of a spectacle to be honest and theres probably not much worthy of writing about, other than Lloyds wayward shooting and Richards shrinking from tiredness. Dope had been ill all week and seemed like he had lost a lot of weight, but still managed to start an argument with himself. Nevertheless, Rothwell still never seemed in much danger. Pitts threw on assistant manager Portrey for the last 15 to shake off the cobwebs, and he did so to great effect 5 minutes later with a typical finish after a good ball across the box from an unfit Liam Robinson. Many thanks to the Walton defence for letting Si have all that room to turn.

Portrey was in on the act again with 5 minutes to go, Lloyd playing an inch perfect ball across goal for Portrey to finish and he wheeled away in delight with a Lee Sharpe shuffle at the corner flag! Pitts then entered the fray in place of a tired robinson for 5 minutes of kamikaze hacking. We all knew what was going to happen, we just couldnt stop it as Pitts hacked at everything, leaving Dufton with stitches to a head wound. In the last minute Scott MCarthy made a fantastic save from a Walton free kick but woefull distribution let him down again as he cleared into the pub car park.

Final whistle, good game for everyone to get back into, certainly showed how unfit we are so back to the training ground this week for fitness work and general beasting. The lads stayed out for a dink because thats why were here!!