

Monday, August 17th, 2009 (Issue 2)

The *No NEWS NO GOSSIP NO PHOTOS SOME SPORT* Manny Road Sport

Free inside – How to register for Mansfield Road Football Club.

BRITAIN'S WORST TABLOID!

11 boys lose to 10 men in 9 goal thriller!



Have you seen this man's baby?
Last seen in the arms of somebody
else's girlfriend, may be able to
generate 'power headers' like her
biological father.

A sun soaked Cutteslowe park was the venue for this action-packed 'friendly' between Manny Road Reserves and the Bowyer's Arms.

Well this is how football should be and all ten of the Manny Road (reserve) squad that had turned up were fully appreciative of the glamour and splendour of playing on a flat surface, in splendid conditions, against a team half your age whilst your girlfriend sat on the sidelines,

making sure that she missed any of your touches of genius as she lovingly cared for the offspring of the club President, Kaiser Kay.

They say that a good crowd can be as valuable as a '12th man', although on this particular day the players, all

ten of them, would have been grateful if the crowd had merely managed to fill an as the '11th man', but alas an 18-month old baby and her debutant carer are not the greatest emergency cover.

The absent 11th man was soon joined by 'Jamie' (sorry, certain surnames are still missing from this reporter's bottomless knowledge of the Oxford amateur circuit), who was brutally scythed down as punishment after having the audacity to score against 11 'men', but more on that later...

Manny Road lined up with an adventurous 3-4-2 formation (one wonders where the 11th man would have slotted in), and it was not long before they realised the folly of their ways and quickly reverted to a 4-lopsided 3-2*, after going two nil down within 10 minutes to a side with more players but a significantly younger combined age.

Manny Road had started this game well, getting the nets up without any problems before

* Perhaps inspired by the equally lopsided 'zona-mista' of Italian football? Go on, google it, you know you want to!

partaking in their pre-game warm-up, which served to strike terror into their intimidated, laughing, opponents. And the smiles continued for the lads of Bowyer's Arms, some of who were clearly underage to be playing for a team named after what sounds like, and presumably because it is, a pub, as they raced into a two nil lead after two demonstrations of quick reactions, clever feet, and sharp shooting. **0v2! Bowyer's Arms are loving it!**

It was Kaiser Kay who volunteered to fill in at centre-back, although this decision had nothing to do with the new rule he had just invented before kick off that decreed that strikers are to earn 1 club point for every goal scored, midfielders 3, and defenders 5. His commanding presence did shore up a somewhat leaky defence however, and provided the platform for the team to build their amazing comeback on. The back line defending Schofield's goal now comprised Mills at left-back, Kaiser Kay and 'Sean' in the middle, and Alverado

at right-back. The left-wing was tactically omitted, leaving Palti to partner the debutant Matt Hollow in the enviable task of closing down the opposition midfield. The pace of Pothecary was selected to wreak havoc on the tactically included right-wing, and Jamie and Burton were spearheading the attack by being the first, and worst, line of defence.

Finally the Manny Road warm-up started to pay dividends, when 20 minutes into the game Pothecary sped down the right and hit a great cross that flew agonisingly in front of the onrushing strikers and into the path of the tactically omitted left-winger, who's less than solid material existence allowed the ball to continue in its path and out for a goal-kick.

However this little foray into the attacking third merely acted as another part of the extended Manny Road warm-up and Nick Pothercary's muscles were now well and truly 'warmed up', and his next darting run culminated in a delightful chipped cross over the stranded keeper and into the path of the grateful Jamie, who scored with a

neat header, **GOAL! 1v2!**
The Reserves are making a comeback!

This goal merely served to further extend Manny Road's now near complete, and very thorough, 'warm-up'. The players were visibly buoyed by the goal and set about devising ways to score more, whilst Kaiser Kay wondered how many points a striker gets for a goal whilst the team played 'zona mista' with only 10 men...Meanwhile, 'Seanny Sean', in absence of a surname, was busy curling a delightful through ball down the tactically valid right-wing and into the path of the slightly offside Burton, who merely had to slot the ball past the keeper to equalize the scores, **GOAL! 2v2!**

Jamie was then, about five minutes before, brutally scythed down by the big, but rather good, Bowyer's Arms captain. Jamie then recovered from the claims of 'diving' and 'wouss' to bravely hobble off the field, with severed Achilles tendon intact, in his sock.

Manny Road were now passing the ball round nicely,

with Mills and Alverado working hard and showing for the ball regularly under the guidance of KKay. The three midfielders and one striker were having a hard time pressing the ball, and if it had been a real fixture they would probably have sat back and attempted to soak up the pressure, but as it was a friendly, the fitness work was an end in itself. Palti and Hollow were immense in midfield, making tackle after tackle, and still having enough energy to play tidy, attractive football, whilst Pothercary's pacey runs down the right bought the team valued yards and respite against the onslaught. It was one of Pothercary's runs that indirectly set up the next goal, although he received no official credit for his role in the goal, he did receive a nice pair of fouls and a right hook for his efforts, after the trailing left-back, tried once at the halfway line, and then again clearly inside the box, to fell the slight frame of Pothercary. He was then so incensed by the referee's decision to award a free-kick (remember, it was only 3 yards inside the box), that he decided to take a swing at

Pothercary. Both players were temporarily sin-binned as the game descended into a farcical 10 v 8. The resultant free-kick was 'lofted' in, by Palti, according to the dictates of KKay, who leapt like a salmon and produced what can only be falsely described as a 'power header'! Which agonisingly crept towards the prostrate goalie who, suffering from a fit of impatience, decided to simply palm the ball in to the net and get the whole affair over with, **GOAL! 3v2, the Manny Road eight take the lead! But more importantly, Kay earns 5 club points!**

The second half was a great example of how superior organisation and fitness can overcome superior numbers and possession. Despite all their possession the Bowyer's Arms were simply unable to resist the diagonal punt, and they completely failed to get in behind, or around, the Manny Road defence, which was expertly marshalled by Kaiser Kay. Although the work rate of all the defenders and midfielders was to be praised, especially Hollow's work rate, and the amazing marauding runs of the 49

year old Jon Mills down the left-flank! Out pacing lads nearly a third of his age!

As the game wore on the Bowyer's Arms lads simply began to give up in frustration, especially when the scoreline rapidly ran away from them after Palti set up Burton with another easy finish and then Hollow scored a well-taken volley, **GOAL GOAL!! 5v2!**

Manny Road now knew the game was won (Kay asked to go upfront), and thus began to stroke the ball around in their relaxed state, and Burton was even foolish enough to attempt a 40-yard lob, which drifted harmlessly no where near the goal, or near the goal keeper who had decided to become an auxiliary left-back at this point. However Burton's attempted lob merely served to act as a *further continuation* of the Manny Road warm-up act as it was subsequently followed by a much more technically accomplished and perfectly executed attempt by Palti, who scored, **GOAL! 6v2!**
What a goal!

Unfortunately Kay was so busy trying to work out how many club points a 40-yard lob earned for a right-winger / centre-midfielder in a 9 man team that he failed to defend properly and allowed the Bowyer's Arms to score a late consolation goal, although in fairness it should be pointed out that he did make a miraculous recovery tackle on the goal line earlier on in the game to prevent a certain goal, but that was when the scoreline mattered and he cared.

Full-time: Manny Road 6, Bowyer's Arms 3.

After the game, Manager Jon Mills said,

"I'm knackered!"

So it was left to club President, Kaiser Kay, to sum the game up,

"We were awful until that warm-up kicked in and I took control of the game by the scruff of the neck. As Homer Simpson says, 'everybody has to work much harder when I'm around'. By the way, I forgot to mention that if a defender scores a power header it is actually worth 8

points!”

Man of the Match could have gone to any of 10 men, but it deservedly went to veteran Jon Mills. At 49, nearly triple the age of the opposition forwards, he is an example to us all of what can happen if you are born with good genes.

Mansfield Road (R) 6 v 3 Bowyer's Arms (ht: 3:2)

Jamie (Potheary)	5	Some young kid	15
Burton (Sean)	10	Same young kid	25
Kaiser Kay (Palti)	10	Different young kid	40
Burton (Palti)	10		
Hollow (Burton)	10		
Palti (na)	10		

Referee: Scottish.

Crowd: I player's girlfriend and Kaiser's Baby, one crippled player and his wife and baby, plus quite a few wags from Bowyer's Arms.

Mansfield Road Reserves: formation 3-4-2

Schofield; Mills, Sean, Alverado, Palti, Kaiser Kay, Hollow, Potheary, Jamie, Burton.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR MANSFIELD ROAD FOOTBALL CLUB

THIS IS HOW YOU DO IT:

1. FOOTBALL CLUB MEMBERSHIP:

www.mansfieldroad.co.uk/

Print off a form for the football section, fill it in and send it to Katie (address on form) with a cheque for TWENTY POUNDS, made payable to MANSFIELD ROAD FOOTBALL CLUB.

2. UNIVERSITY CLUB MEMBERSHIP: (COMPULSORY)

NOTE:- **THIS MEMBERSHIP LASTS THREE YEARS BUT YEARLY PAYMENT IS REQUIRED**

This is done on line, see

www.club.ox.ac.uk/home/membership/?option=form

A) ORDINARY MEMBER:

COST:- NOTHING

CRITERIA:-

- a Staff of The University and Colleges and certain associated institutions

- b Retired Staff University Card holders (other ex-staff see Other membership)
- c Persons registered as graduate students
- d Visitors, temporarily in residence or undertaking advanced study or fulfilling contractual obligations to the University

B) OTHER MEMBER:

COST:- TWENTY POUNDS

CRITERIA:-

- a Ex-members of staff of the University and Colleges and certain associated institutions
- b Alumni of the University

C) FAMILY MEMBER:

COST:- TWENTY FIVE POUNDS

CRITERIA:-

- a Partners of an Ordinary Member over the age of 18 years
- b Members of the family of an Ordinary Member over the age of 18 years

D) ASSOCIATE MEMBER:

COST:- THIRTY POUNDS

CRITERIA:-

These are admitted at the discretion of the Committee. Please provide details of your association with the University and/or Club on the form including full details of any supporting Club members you give.

3) 1ST TEAM REGISTRATION
See Simon Dickie and sign away.

4) RESERVE TEAM REGISTRATION

The committee decided that every club player should register for all leagues to avoid any hassles later on. Please bring 2 passport sized photos (with name and DOB on back) with you to training Wednesday. The league meeting is on Saturday, and all forms have to be with Simon Dickie before Saturday so that he can give them to the league committee.

If you miss this deadline it will be hard to register you in time before the league starts.

If you can't make training this week then please send your photos to me, along with your name, DOB, and address.

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