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# The *Manny Road Sport*

NO NEWS NO GOSSIP ONE PHOTO SOME SPORT

Free inside – New, page 3!

**BRITAIN'S WORST TABLOID!**

## **Thrills, Nils and Bellyaches at Manny Road!**

**Opening weekend gives Manny Roaders cause for a *Happy Monday!* No free-reign for Freeland as action packed season opener draws blanks at Mansfield Road, and the Reserves soar to new heights with a controlled victory over the Yellow Eagles.**

Division One Mansfield Road FC hosted fellow promoted side Freeland FC in a hard-fought season opener that saw two sides battle competitively but fairly for the three points on offer. However both sides had to settle for just the one point a piece in this evenly contested match that was devoid of goals, but certainly not goal mouth chances nor action. The final score of nil-nil was

largely attributable to the superb performances of the two goalkeepers, but some profligate finishing by Mansfield also played a part, along with the somewhat charmed existence of the Mansfield woodwork.

The Manny Road Reserves hosted the Yellow Eagles in an entertaining match that saw Manny Road clinch 3 deserved points, but more

importantly, keep possession of the ball as best they could and give the long suffering fans a whiff of optimism.

*"The season starts here! The season starts Today!"* was the battle cry of Mansfield Road manager Gordon Sanghera 3 weeks ago, but as usual, Sanghera was premature, as the season did not actually start until this Saturday, with a home visit from Manny Road's favourite opponents, Freeland Ringers FC. And so it was that after seven weeks of pre-season training, the Manny Roaders finally lined up for a competitive match! *Hallelujah!*

The home team lined up in their traditional green & white, *loose fit*, hoops, keen to *step on* and put an end to their summer *holiday* from competitive football. They also lined up in the less traditional 3-5-2, with new keeper Simon Byrne replacing the soon to be travelling Stuart Whigam. Captain Ashton commanded the back three from his sweeper position, with Dickie and Burton doing the man-marking. The 'prize' of wing-back went to O'Connor (left)

and Frost (right), the foolish winners of the Bleep test. The midfield trio was a perfect balance of youth and experience, of industry and guile, of looks and brains. Yet it was not the young 'Harry' Potter, nor the creative Trinder, that was throwing up before the game, but of course the experienced Kaiser Kay. Up front were Jones and Lazarus, leaving George, McGillyguddy, and Hall on the bench.

Meanwhile the Reserves were lining up (on the same pitch, albeit 20 hours later) to make their Autoglass Upper-Thames Valley league debut in Division 3A against the Yellow Eagles. Adopting a similar loose fit set of jerseys, they lined up in the more traditional 4-4-2. A predominantly anglo-saxon squad will be described with the traditional surnames, except for the left-winger who clearly has some Brazilian in him and earns the right to have just a single name, of 'Babs'. The line up was the dependable Schofield in goal, and a back four of Gildermeister, Hall (again), Smith, and Cannon, a midfield four of 'Babs', Burton, Hollow, and Shabala,

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**Simone 'the fat assassin' from Blackely, on growing up,  
"I always got on with everyone at school but was a  
little shy and frightened of boys but not anymore"**

**And on the credit crunch,  
"well my milkshake brings all the boys to the yard,  
but now I may have to charge!"**

**And on football,  
"Ooh I luurve to play football, but after the game  
everybody always wants to swap shirts with me, I don't  
know why!" Giggles.....**

and a towering front two of Oyston and George, leaving Alveredo, **Henrik** and Xie on the bench.

Manny Road (Saturday) started well but in truth both sides were taking few risks. Apparently the Brazilian Didi, midfield maestro of the 50's and 60's, had so much respect for the ball that he only referred to it as 'her' and refused to hit 'her' with his head, out of respect, preferring to caress 'her' with his feet instead. One only hopes that neither side had personalised the poor ball on Saturday as it was mostly being mercilessly battered from one end to the other as fear took hold. The long ball game was particularly pleasing for the Manny Road back three however as they were up against a diminutive (no 9) and tricky (no 14) strike force that longed for the ball to their feet, but despite their protestations, the Freeland back line insisted on lumping the ball towards their heads, which were just about level with Captain Ashton's arm band, which had by now slipped half-way down his slender guns.

Not surprisingly therefore the first attacking forays of note went Manny Road's way, the most notable being a trio of heading opportunities, first for striker Lazarus, then midfielder Trinder, and finally for defender Ashton, all in the first half. Lazarus's miss was wild, Trinder's tragic, and Ashton's comical. Lazarus's was a diving header that managed to divert the ball towards the corner flag. Lazarus then turned provider, flicking the ball over a defender's head on the left-wing, skipping past another, before clipping in an inviting cross, all of which went unnoticed except by Lazarus Senior ("*Well played son!*"), largely because everyone was so stunned by Trinder's resultant, tragic, miss, a tame header just wide at the back post from all of 3 yards. Things come in 3 however and it was now Ashton's turn to further frustrate Sanghera, heading into the keeper's grateful arms from all of one yard, admittedly after the ball had just cannoned off his face. The cosmic balance was soon restored when the ball cannoned off a Freeland face after a cannon-ball shot left Dickie's trusted left-boot from

a free-kick on the right. Ooooooh! Said the crowd.

Meanwhile the Reserves were stroking the ball around beautifully on a beautifully sunny Sunday morning, taking more risks yes, but all in the name of progress. Chances were still rare though as both sides were keenly contesting this opening fixture, but the Reserves were keen to improve on their two defeats at the talons of the Yellow Eagles last season and they edged into the lead just before half-time. Coincidentally they too had had a trio of heading opportunities, and it was third-time lucky as Hollow headed a corner powerfully past the keeper from six-yards, **GOAL! 1v0 Manny Road take the lead!**

At the same time the first eleven were relieved to make it into the interval with a clean-sheet after the tricky number 14 had broke free on the left, and hit a devilish cross that was just about to be poked home as Byrne managed to make a vital finger-tip touch to divert the ball past the despairing number 9 (who in case

anyone did not know, felt the need to let everyone know that he "*had to go to work on Monday morning!*").

**Half-time: Manny Road 0 v 0 Freeland; Manny Road Reserves 1 v 0 Yellow Eagles.**

The second half for Manny Road (Saturday) was a rather desperate affair and their lack of fitness was sadly telling. Trinder suffered a bout of *Lazyitis* (cramp) and had to be replaced by McGillyguddy (forgive the spelling), who had just rushed back from a bout of high-altitude training in Spain, but alas the Spanish are *24 Hour Party People* that like their sangria and deep-fried food almost as much as the Scots! So apart from a few tasty dribbles and curled efforts from McGillygicuduofoanf=dcc ucuuddy, all the second half chances befell Freeland.

Meanwhile, the Reserves had gone two up, after a long ball over the top (a lovingly caressed ball I might add) had been brilliantly taken by Oyston, who with perhaps his last ounce of strength of the

weekend, managed to hold off the defender before rounding the keeper and calmly slotting home, **GOAL! 2v0, Manny Road take control!**

Meanwhile Aston was busy deciphering Sanghera's half-time talk as the ball became stuck under his foot before the Freeland forward nipped in, stole the ball, and raced towards goal, but just as the opener appeared inevitable, Byrne made a superb save at the feet of the on-rushing striker, what a save! However a Freeland goal now seemed very imminent, but thankfully Joel's Dad managed to rush round the back of the goal and place a lucky charm just in time to save the day, and Freeland's next two attempts both smacked across the bar, one via the head of Dickie, before being scrambled to safety by a desperate Byrne.

Chances were going a begging in the Reserves game too, first after Oyston rifled a shot from an acute angle across the bar, presenting George with an open goal, but a somewhat tricky half-volley that he just couldn't manage to keep down. Next it was the

Yellow Eagles, who had a gaping open goal but somehow ballooned the ball over from 6 yards, a lucky break for Manny Road! However the sheet was not to remain immaculate and the Yellow Eagles did score when the defence was exposed by Burton's rash foray into the opposition penalty box. A long ball ensued and the striker did well to out-manoeuvre Cannon before cutting inside past Smith and driving in a good finish, low and hard, **GOAL! 2v1, the Eagles claw one back!**

Back on Saturday, the game reached a frantic finale, with Freeland finishing the stronger as they pushed on eager for all three points, but a relieved Mansfield held on and the game ended goalless. The score-line was not an accurate reflection of events, but the result was a fair outcome over the ninety minutes. As the players traipsed back to the dressing room they knew that they had put in a good shift, and their embryonic smiles grew as the result of the Reserves filtered through, a 2v1 win, they had managed to hold on too!

**Full-time: Mansfield Road 0 v 0 Freeland; Mansfield Road Reserves 2 v 1 Yellow Eagles.**

After the game, Manager Gordon Sanghera was surprisingly nice and only used the word 'Rubbish' a couple of times,

*"Well done lads, attacking wise you were excellent today, just like Wednesday against the Uni, but you need to be more positive (less rubbish) and less afraid of the opposition. Respect my \* \* \* \*, not them!"*

Reserve team Manager Jon Mills had only one difficulty, and that was who to award

the Man of the Match to,

*"Well done to everybody, you all played with great confidence and great effort and thoroughly deserve your 3 points, the future looks good!"*

The future does indeed look good, and we here at the Manny Road Sport believe that the Manny Road fans will get to enjoy many *Happy Mondays*\* this year.

\*The Happy Mondays album, Pills 'N' Thrills 'N' Bellyaches, along with such classics as *Hallelujah*, *Holiday*, *Step On*, and *Kinky Afro*, is available from Bez, or most record shops.

**Sanghera's Man of the Match** went to Simon Byrne for two superb saves and a series of brave saves in a frantic, mobbed, box towards the end.

**Mills Man of the Match** went to 'Bab's, not for his Kinky Afro, but for his industrious and composed display at the truly horrible position of left-midfield.

**Mansfield Road 0 v 0 Freeland (ht: 0v0)**

*Mansfield Road line up and formation: 3-5-2*

Byrne, Dickie, Ashton (capt), Burton, O'Connor, Frost, Kay, 'Harry Potter', Trinder (Mgillycuddy), Lazarus, Jones (George).

Referee: *God's Cop?* average, but too lenient with verbal abuse from players and gave a weak compromise of a free-kick on the box instead of a penalty when Lazarus was felled.

Crowd: Joel's Dad, Shaun Ryder, and Bez, just for the vibe.

**Mansfield Roadn (R) 2 v 1 Yellow Eagles (ht: 1v0)**

Hollow (Burton) 40                      Golden Eagle 75  
Oyston (Burton) 60

Referee: *Good*

Crowd: Kay, Ashton, Trinder and family.

*Mansfield Road Reserves line up and formation: 4-4-2*

Schofield, Gildermeister, Hall, Smith, Cannon, 'Babs', Burton, Hollow, Shabala (Henrik), Oyston, George.

**Oxford Amateur League****Division One Results**

Broughton	7 v 1	Garsington Rs
Charlton	2 v 1	Watlington
Eynsham Rs	2 v 2	Slade Farm
Hinksey	8 v 1	Middleton Cheney
Manny Road	0 v 0	Freeland

**Autoglass Upper Thames Valley League****Division 3b Results**

Donnington	7 v 3	Mason Arms
Freeland Yeoman	4 v 2	B.H. Bletchingdon
Iffley Harriers	5 v 4	Bicesterlona
Leys Wanderers	4 v 2	AFC Jericho
Mansfield Road	2 v 1	Yellow Eagles
Northway	3 v 4	Witney Exiles