

Match Report 18th July 2009 by Phil Sale - Man of the Match

Due to a lack of any individual players standing out, I was voted “Man of the match”

Firstly, let me say that it is a sad state of affairs when a player gets this prestigious award so he can write the match report!

Anyway, let me paint a picture of my week leading up to and including the game, don't worry, this is not a **full** blow by blow description!

Tuesday: Received an email from Steve Hall from Masters 1 asking for a keeper for his game. Contacted Russ, our outstanding nomad, and he agreed to play for them.

Friday: Sorted out the first draft of the starting line up for our game on Saturday. Also sorted out a team for my Combined Junior League Div 14 Hornets. Being the school holidays we needed to find some replacements and finally found enough to make a starting line up. Emailed by Capital Football advising clubs that there would be cancellations in the weekend due to a lack of wind to dry the grounds. Are we still living in Wellington??

Saturday 8.19am: Had a text from Dave telling me that the game had been transferred to Ngatitua. Texted the team to tell them that we had been transferred.

Found my Junior's team was cancelled

Went to see my nephew play water polo for New Zealand Under 15's against New South Wales (the won 14 – 4)

Went shopping with Jo to get Brad (my oldest) a birthday present.

12.30pm Called Mikey T to confirm change of venue as his phone was broken and I couldn't text him. He is not available due to foot infection.... Here is my chance to not only play, but play in a position I love!! (Mikey had emailed me but I was not home to receive it)

1.25pm Michelle (cat lady) texted me to say Kris was suffering from a sore knee and couldn't play but would come and watch... texts back and forward had him bring his boots and he would see how he was, he may be able to play half a game...

1.30pm Texted Joe F asking him to bring his boots as it was looking like we could be short (how desperate was I !)

1.45pm Left home for the game, not feeling confident with all the changes etc

1.55pm Arrived at the ground to see a good number of the team there, and in good spirits!

1.56pm Kev rings to confirm the exact location of Ngatitua (he was the third of the team to ask today)

2.01pm Paul asks who has the gear – Zulu? I did not think it was our South African friend but rang him to confirm.... No, it was Kev. I knew Kev was not far away.

2.14pm Called Kev to find if he was far away and had the gear.... I could hear the blood drain from his body as he thought, “I am at the park but the gear is at my home, oh fiddle sticks! (or some such words)

2.15pm Tell our team and the opposition that we have no strip – feelings of de ja vu flow over the team as we remember Happy Valley 2008, otherwise known as “The Joe Wanders Incident”!

2.18pm Realize we have most of the white strip in my car – get that for the boys to wear.

2.20pm Jo goes home to get some spare shorts for the team as many do not have shorts with them.

2.30pm We start the game in our makeshift strip and look like a makeshift team.

2.35pm First penalty, on the spot – Kris's 8th for the year to face! From my position, I thought it should have gone my way, the attacker had fouled me, but there may have other factors that I was not aware of ... perhaps Paul?

1 – 0

Shortly after Wellington United went on another well executed attacking move and scored a good goal
2 -0

I remember thinking we will see what we are made of today!

The strikers had very little ball, in fact I think our whole team had little ball and when we did we were guilty of passing it back to the opposition! There was one moment of brilliance for Terry that should be mentioned. Terry was passed the ball just in the opposition's half, beat at least 6 players, (some in heavy Paul like tackles), but came through with the ball at his feet and calmly slotted it home past the keeper! (there may be a small degree of exaggeration here, but hey, the media do it....)

2 -1

Half time came and we got changed into our normal strip so we at least looked like a team. We realized our game plan of running around like headless chickens had some flaws especially as Wellington United, who had their first choice team for the only game so far in the season, were playing excellent football.

Feeling like a new team, we ran out on the pitch and seemed to be a different team – not without faults though as any one of the people on the sideline will tell you!

Again, there was another moment of brilliance, again involving Terry (why was he not Man of the Match?!). Terry laid a beautiful ball out into the right hand channel for me to run on to which I did, I looked up and saw Ludo at the far post and got a fantastic inch perfect cross to him. Unfortunately it did not have the pace on it for Ludo to put it away and the score remained the same.

There was a lot of to and fro play after that with the score remaining the same.

Comments were made after that game about this being a good thing for the Whiskeys but I am not so sure, I want to win! Still, we were done a favour by Brooklyn, them losing showing us that any team in our league can win against any other team, it is that close. One thing is for sure, we don't do so well when our routine is disrupted!

I believe the best thing for our team is to relax a little more (on the pitch) and look to enjoy playing football a little more and the results will come!

Yours in football.

Phil