

## **Milton v Brampton**

William Cockell League Cup Final

*May 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2010 @ Histon Football Club*

845am: Milton Boys prepare for the big day at our club. How many of us are going to Lion & Lamb? What time are we heading into town? Can we get Rosie to put us all on the guest list? After the important questions had been answered, we began our long journey to Histon FC.

915am: Milton Boys wait outside stadium, in matching tracksuits, awaiting tickets to be let in. Random 15 people standing outside ground at that time in the morning? Really? Brampton roll up on their coach, all in shirt and ties. SMART!

10am: Warm up is taken seriously by both teams, all players looking to get in the right frame of mind, all still wandering who would be starting. Despite Milton players gaining acknowledgement from Premiership Clubs due to their high standards in recent weeks, Pro got a bit ahead of himself, and waited outside Wembley. Unfortunately, it wasn't the FA Cup! He did however manage to get airlifted across in time for the game.

There was rain on the horizon, and with strong winds, the match was likely to be hugely affected by monsoon conditions. Kickoff at 1030am was in front a capacity crowd of 300, 2700 less than we envisaged.

First 20 minutes were all Brampton. Milton played against the wind, and struggled to get out of their half. Most attacks from Brampton came from set pieces, and with a bit of luck (free kick onto crossbar), Milton were able to get into the game still on level terms. The pitch was great for Milton's free flowing football, and when they were able to get it down, they showed why everyone is talking about the club's talent (or Sweeney at least). As the half went on, Milton started to create opportunities. Fish-paste, Juan-love, Stilian Petrov all went close with chances, and Hodgey had his effort hit the post. The deadlock was broken with a through ball to Juan, who calmly slotted home Juan-on-Juan with the keeper. Milton 1 Brampton 0.

Celebrations were cut short as within 2 minutes, Brampton had equalised through sloppy defending. Cookie (or Sidebottom as fans shouted), would be disappointed not to have held on to the original shot, but slack following up allowed Brampton to tap in from 5 yards. Milton 1 Brampton 1.

Both teams cancelled each other out for the rest of the half. Cookie made a great 1-on-1 save, and with the problems the wind had given Milton, Milton were the happier team going in level. Half-time.

Milton started the 2<sup>nd</sup> half the better team. Defensively, George, Coxy, Westy and BO were all dealing with long balls, Manu, Nicky, Hodgey and Stevey J showed confidence with the ball at their feet, and Juan and Fish were always looking dangerous with their strength and pace. Milton did take the lead again when a deep corner was brought back into play by Westy, into his centre back partner Coxy, who was able to strike in his first goal of the season. What a time to score it!! Milton 2 Brampton 1. The lead was doubled 5 minutes later when a goalmouth scramble was poked in by Hodgey. Milton 3 Brampton 1. Brampton looked out of it. Their goalie was going crazy due to Briggsy & Co's constant

abuse/ water bottle antics. But somehow Brampton managed to get back into the game. Once again it was set pieces that were Milton's downfall. 1 goal mouth scramble from a corner, and a great header from a freekick, and the score was level again. Milton 3 Brampton 3.

With the scores level again, and the crowd enthralled by the swings and roundabouts of the encounter, the final 20 minutes were set to be exciting!! Petrov almost scored when he turned a delightful Fisher cross on the post. Rosie then thought it was time to freshen things up, with Danny coming on for Manu, and Mikey replacing el Capitan Fisher. Not long after coming on, a mix up in defence for Brampton allowing Nicky in, who was able to slot across for Juan to tap in from 2 yards. Milton 4 Brampton 3.

Brampton continued to treat through set pieces, and almost scored twice in 2 minutes. Nicky managed to get his pogo-stick out quick enough to jump up and head the ball off the line. Minutes later, Despite rounding Cookie, Brampton couldn't put the ball in the back of the net. Luckily BO was on the ground doing his hourly workout, and whilst doing his press-ups, he managed to block a certain goal. Brampton tried to push for an equalising goal, but Milton stayed strong and continued to create chances for themselves. Brampton's no. 9 was frustrated by Coxy and subsequently stole his hair gel out mr Cox's bag. CC responded the only way he knew how, with a Jackie Chan style kungfu kick. Booked accordingly! The match was all but over in the last 5 minutes, when Juan-love was able to get away and cross in to 'Chav' Evans, who couldn't miss! Milton 5 Brampton 3.

1220pm: The final whistle blew, and Milton were able to celebrate their performance and cup triumph! Trophies were given out, and Juan was voted Man of the Match. Whilst enjoying the moment, choruses of 'Brampton, Suck my Hampton, Brampton Brampton, Suck my Hampton' rung around the crowd thanks to Briggs et al.

130pm: After champagne the flowed around the changing room, the squad were able to enjoy the MONSTER amount of food provided by the 'Lion & Lamb', and drink the night away (or afternoon if you couldn't handle it ;) no names)

#### Post Game Thoughts

A thoroughly deserved win for Milton. Massive squad effort. Having played more than 10 matches in a month, all Milton players deserved a mention in their achievements. Great way to finish the season, and as we all know, next season is about 1 thing- PROMOTION (and holding onto the cup!). BRING IT ON!!!

Team: Ben Cook, George Hadfield, Carl Cox, Tom West, James Bolandi, Nicky Haycraft, Manu, Glenn Hodge, Stephen Jordan, Matt Fisher, Juan

Squad: Paolo, Andrew Proctor, Tom Gray, Mikey Evans, Danny Matthews, Karl Booth, Ant Bogdan, Christian Wright.