

NPRangers Masters v Hawera Demons 26/5/10

The Masters were out for revenge against a Hawera Demons side that had turned them over in Hawera all being with the aid of a so called qualified referee who dismissed Mr Angry (Pete Swann) for no apparent reason.

Some positional changes were made by the coach with Kev Saunders playing at the back, and a fine game he had as well, (needed to have a good game, he was covering for his fullback, you know the one, I mentioned him earlier). He had a blinder, forgot his stick.

The game kicked off in bright sunshine although it was still quite cold (well it is winter after all), and Rangers were soon on the attack looking for that first goal to settle the nerves. The Masters should have opened the scoring with some early pressure, but bad first touches and lack of composure throughout the team caused the team to either miss kick the ball or shot wide.

Some good play down the left flank saw Rob Stuart cross a superb ball into the oppositions penalty area were Callum Stuart connected with the ball only for the diminutive keeper to save. From there the keeper launched a swift counterattack and they scored the first goal of the game, completely against the run of play.

This seemed to spur us on and before half time we were back on level terms with some fine football a good finish from the oppositions defender put us back on an even keel and we finished the half the more likely to add a couple more goals in the second half.

A few quiet words of wisdom from the coach and we were back in the groove when the whistle sounded. A little bit more composure and we settled into a rhythm. The opposition's goalkeeper was having one of those games, where he seemed to be everywhere, stopping shots and rushing off his line making it difficult for the Masters to add to their tally of goals. This soon ended when Callum Stuart sent over a looping cross from the right wing into the box were the waiting striker managed to get there before the defender and restored the Masters well deserved lead. Soon after that Joe left the field to rapturous applause from the multitude of supporters and was replaced by Baldrick. The game seemed to seesaw after that with chances coming to both teams and Hawera managing to snatch the equalizer with about 10 minutes to go.

The Masters fought back but could not find the winning goal and the referee blew the final whistle on a bit of a scrappy game.