

NPRangers Masters hosted Hawera Reserves in the Duff Rose Bowl on a cold Queen's Birthday Monday. No referee yet again so the capable Ronnie Van Dillen stepped into the breach and became the man in black.

A few late call offs by some players at the eleventh hour brought the Masters team with only 10 players, but a few phone calls brought us Robbo and Jordan into the team. The game started off with Hawera attacking from the whistle and they very nearly converted from the first kick of the ball, the only thing that kept the ball out was good luck. Unfortunately for us that ran out with two defensive errors which let them take the lead. This seemed to jolt us out of the apathy that we had in the first quarter of the game and with some slick interplay we managed to score a well crafted goal, scored by Terry Van Dillen. Rangers now got on top of their game limiting Hawera to a few chances, but we could not get that elusive equalizer although we were playing the better football. Hawera then managed to score a couple more before the halftime whistle.

Slightly deflated, a stern talking to by the coach brought us back onto the field full of new energy which we quickly put to good use and brought us a second goal, again scored by Terry, but brought about by some excellent play from the midfielder Chris Jury who laid the ball off to Terry. Chances were now coming thick and fast for the Masters, all of which were either saved or put wide, this in turn brought Hawera their 5th goal when the attacker was brought down in the box by our central defender Shane 'Robbo The Wrestler' Robbertsen. His first game for the Masters since his injury and he has proven that he is as slow as the rest of us. Welcome back Robbo.

With time running out for the Masters and opportunities going begging it was Hawera who wrapped up the game and scored a couple more goals to finish the match 7 – 2 winners, a score line that certainly flattered them as we felt that with more critical finishing we could have won the encounter.

Jordan Hull made an appearance for the Masters and quickly made an impact, the lad has some of the same attributes as his dad, they both pass the ball behind you, this can be fixed in Jordan, but there is no hope for his dad.

MOM (Man of the Match) went to Joe Munro for his tireless running and superb distribution of the ball.

A special mention to Pete "is that a bald patch on your head or is it a thumb print" Swan for turning up for the after match beers.