

## NPRangers Masters v Rimu Power Rangers 20/6/10

NP Rangers Masters hosted the other Div3 team on a wet Sunday afternoon at Merrilands Domain. The team was buoyant from their recent success at Peringa.

Having lost the toss(yet again) we set about the game with our usual determination to utterly mess things up in the first 5 minutes, this we did not disappoint ourselves, with only a couple of minutes gone, the opposition scored the first goal. A miss hit shot completely bamboozled our goalkeeper Andy Higham (Joe Cocker in disguise) and the ball trickled through his legs. (Must be a trait with English Goalkeepers).

We quickly picked ourselves up and began to play some quick passing between the team and should have pulled the goal back and even added to the tally, but things were not to be and the opposition added another with some slick passing and one touch football they outpaced our aging defence and slotted their second. The Masters quickly picked themselves up and again played some good footy and only for the oppositions goalkeeper pulling off some outstanding saves the score could have been all square at half time.

The half time team talk was a quiet affair with Baldrick telling everyone that we were still in the game and to keep on going the way we were and we could pull this back, (thank god he is not a tipster, we would all be broke).

The second half began with the opposition on the attack straight from the whistle and they quickly added another to their tally, they seemed to have the measure of our aging defence and no matter how much experience we had old legs cannot keep up with youth, although the back four played their usual outstanding game, youth won in the end.

The Masters now made some changes to their team and brought on Dickie Smith, Greg Hull and our own youth policy Callum Stuart, to see if we could change the course of the game.

These players quickly settled into the game and with a little bit more luck and composure we could have scored, unfortunately the opposing team seemed to have the rights on this and added a couple more to their tally. With time running out and the masters tiring with the heavy pitch taking its toll the game was finally put beyond even the skill and resilience of the Masters with the other side adding 2 more goals to their total.

Not to be outdone the Masters gave it one more rally and ended the game on a high, with some skillful play and determination a cross from the right was met by our man of the match Joel Scott and thundered into the opposition's goal. A good way to end the match and a hard fought one at that.

A special mention goes to Pete Swann, great game, but you know what they say, one swallow does not make a summer.