

Teams – Boxted Reserves v Holland Reserves
Comp – ESBL Res. Div. 1 League Match
Venue – Cage Lane, Boxted.

A new look Boxted Reserves played their first home game of the season against Holland Reserves who had started the new campaign well with two wins from two games. But the Gaffer (Hayts) was dealt a blow earlier that week when he was informed that our new keeper would not be available for the foreseeable future due to work commitments. So the Gaffer started with his Assistant (Stretch) in goal, a back three of Jamie Holberton, myself & Nick Lord, a central midfield trio of Charlie Holohan, Ben Harrison and Ivan Stanmore with young Ryan Trussler and James Fisher taking up the wing back roles and a front two of Andy Gibb & Jon Hume.

Having played against Holland, Weeley & Clacton many times in the past I knew that this was never going to be a game of just football ability.....and the visiting side didn't let the crowd down as it was not long before their right back had left Bingo (Ben Harrison) winded on the floor with his first in a line of horrific tackles that would not look out of place in Wrestling Ring. This was not helped by the Referee (or lack of one) but we kept trying to play football, most of which was going through Holohan and it was not long before we broke the dead lock with Gibbo driving a right foot shot into the bottom corner. Soon after we scored our second, which was all most a carbon copy of the first, but this time it was Hume stepping up to make the decisive finish and getting his season off to a good start. It all seemed to be going well when Holland's big number 10 tripped over my out stretched leg in the box and went down for a penalty, (earning myself the "Donkey of the Week" Award) which they converted to make it 2-1, However the lead was restored back to two goals shortly after when Holohan calmly side footed home a free kick from just outside the box.

Half Time – 3-1

The second half started off much like the first with the Holland's full back kicking people off the park and with a lack of protection from the referee it was becoming increasingly harder for our midfield to play any kind of football which created the scrappy game that I think Holland was played for. Soon after a long range effort dipped over Stretch, hitting the crossbar and going in off of his arm to make the score 3-2 and we were on the back foot. Not long after the Gaffer brought Holohan off and replaced him with Owain Richards, to add a little bit of steel in the centre of the park. This was to back fire as Owain picked up a nasty gash on the head resulting in him going to hospital for stitches meaning the team had to reshuffle the pack and go to 4-4-2 formation with Jon Weedon coming on at left back, who duely put in a solid performance. Just as it looked like we were going to hold on for all three points Holland popped up with a scrappy goal to make the final score 3-3.

Final Score – 3-3

After two games in the league we are unbeaten against two of the so called better teams.....lets see who is the best team come the end of the season?

EL CAPITAN