



Match 4 2013-14

27th February 2014

England Fire Service Football Section Match Report

England v Wales

Squad;

C Hasler (London)

R Whelan (GMC)

N Murphy (Cheshire)

R Stapleton (Cornwall)

C Philpott (London)

A Hildred (Lincs)

B Wood (London)

M Price (West Mids)

R Georgiou (London)

C Meakin (GMC)

R Tonks (S Yorks)

L Thompson (Merseyside)

C Lock (London)

D Gilbert (Lincs)

**Manager—Wayne Brown
(London)**

Kitmen—N Cheatle ,

M Straw

(both Derbyshire)

**Physio and Transport Man-
ager —Gary Phillips (GMC)**

Welsh battle to earn long awaited victory

Wales earned a hard victory over an 'out of sorts' England team in Cardiff. The match was in doubt as recent rain threatened the pitch at Cardiff University, however a pitch inspection on the morning was positive and the game went ahead as planned. Maybe England wished it hadn't as Wales started in their usual busy style. Matt Price fired over an early shot/cross which was too close for the keeper after 8 minutes, but it was all Wales soon afterwards. London keeper, Charlie Hasler was kept busy with wave after wave of attacks by the Welsh threatening to open the scoring. It was his colleague Chris Philpott who was the offender on 16 minutes, when a break down the left was halted by an untimely challenge and the referee pointed to the spot. Hasler was unlucky not to save the shot, as it squirmed under his diving body. A poor Hasler clearance almost allowed the Welsh striker to make it 2-0 almost straight after the goal, but the volley was well wide. Chris Lock had a good chance to score when he chested



England Squad (above) and the Executive Committee, including Dave Gilbert, LVP Jim Robinson, Liam Wheeler, Gary Phillips, Jake Bristow and Manager Wayne Brown (below left)

the ball down but volleyed over from 20 yards. The game was beginning to even up and England began to create a few half chances. Meakin was unlucky as he raced through, but the ball just reached the keeper in time. England did equalize after 22 minutes. Lock made a good run down the left and he crossed to find Georgiou with a neat shot to make it 1-1. England had a good chance very soon afterwards, the referee awarding a free kick just outside the box after a couple of strong challenges. Meakin's free kick was closed down and Ben Wood was unlucky not to hit the target. Lock again had a good chance, curling his shot wide, before the rest of the half was evenly played out.

The second half was much like the first, England created half chances, but failed to keep possession and pass consistently, allowing Wales to grab a hold of the game. Lock again had Eng-

land's best chances but the quality throughout the team was lacking. Wales stunned England with a goal after 71 minutes. The ball came over from a Welsh corner and was flicked on before being fired into the net. England defence would have been disappointed, failing to get anywhere near the shot. It really should have been 3-1 as Stapleton was robbed in the box, but again, the Welsh striker couldn't hit the target. A scrappy game came to a dismal end for England. In time added on, and with England hopelessly looking for an equalizer, Wales broke again and chipped a super shot over Hasler to make it 3-1. Manager Wayne Brown was philosophical in defeat, but certainly let the players know what he thought of their performance in the dressing room afterwards. England must improve as they face Scotland in the season finale at Altrincham FC on April 17th

