



Match 2 2013-14

Thursday 28th November
2013

England Fire Service Football Section Match Report

England v Barnet XI

Squad;

C Hasler (London)

R Whelan (GMC)

J Oatley (London)

**R Stapleton ©
(Cornwall)**

C Philpott (London)

B Wood (London)

M Price (West Mids)

M Deane (London)

S Moore (GMC)

R Georgiou (London)

G Hickling (Lancs)

T Beech (West Mids)

R Tonks (S Yorks)

W Brown (London)

D Gilbert (Lincs)

Bees Stung by Classy England Team

England bounced back from a disappointing performance against the Royal Marines with a 5-2 victory against a Barnet FC team consisting of 1st team, reserves and youth players. The RAF Police had to withdraw at short notice due to commitments in the Philippines.

The game was preceded with a minutes applause for the UK Secretary and Fire Service Football legend that is Tony Moore. Tony lost his long battle with cancer a few weeks before and received a fitting tribute from players of both sides and supporters. Without doubt, a huge loss to UK Fire Service football. I know Tony's wife Bev and their children have received tremendous comfort from the numerous messages and well wishes since Tony passed away.

Barnet kicked off and started very quickly, their pace and ability causing real concern for Manager Wayne Brown from the start. Midfielder and 1st team player Iffy Allen looked impressive and his electric pace immediately put England on the back foot. A sweet strike after only ten minutes gave Barnet the lead and things looked ominous for the Fire Service team. But England settled well and began to create their own chances, with Georgiou and Hickling looking lively. Despite their early pressure, Bar-



England in their stunning new kit, sponsored by Gerda and (inset) Tony Moore, who sadly passed away

net couldn't add to their tally and some resolute defending from Skipper Stapleton and Philpott meant that 1-0 was the half time scoreline. England found their rhythm more in the second half and soon equalized with a header from Stapleton. Hickling then fired in a belter to put England 2-1 up. Barnet used the game to view a couple of trialists and allow a couple to prove fitness. After several changes, the Barnet team looked tired and England really upped their game. Further goals from Moore, Deane and a super strike from Substitute Rob Tonks sealed a fantastic victory for the England team with the winter break looming. Just to confirm, the dubious goals panel have stated that Tonks was only credited with one goal from this game! A fine result against a well organized, youthful team.

Thanks in particular to James Thorne at Barnet FC Academy for bringing his team at short notice to ensure the fixture went ahead.

Thanks also to Gerda, who have extended their sponsorship of the England Football Section and supplied a superb new kit for today's game.

This year has been a particularly difficult year for Fire Service football with the loss of Eddie Forbes and more recently, Tony Moore. The section will continue to run in a way which I know Eddie and particularly Tony would have been proud of. I would like to personally thank everyone who has contributed in some way and made the section the success it is over the last year.

Finally, wishing you all a very Happy and Safe Xmas from all in the England Football Section!

Forthcoming Fixtures;

RAF	Jan 14
Wales	Mar 14
Scotland	Apr 14