



Match 5 2013-14

17th April 2014

England Fire Service Football Section Match Report

England v Scotland

England much improved despite loss to Scots

Squad;

S Taylor (London)

C Hasler (London)

R Whelan (GMC)

N Murphy (Cheshire)

R Stapleton (Cornwall)

B Wood (London)

M Price (West Mids)

G Hickling (Lancs)

R Georgiou (London)

C Meakin (GMC)

R Tonks (S Yorks)

L Thompson (Merseyside)

S Moore (GMC)

C Lock (London)

D Gilbert (Lincs)

Manager—Wayne Brown

(London)

Physio—Dave Ward

Kitmen—Nick Cheattle, Mark Straw

Executive Committee-

Dave Gilbert

Jake Bristow

Gary Phillips

England played their final match of a disappointing season on a cloudy, cool day in Cheshire against their old enemy. Altrincham FC once again hosted the clash which never fails to disappoint the watching crowd! England made a couple of changes from the Wales game and were hoping to finish the season on a high.

Both teams made a solid start and the pace of the game was fast in the early stages. Englands passing game soon started to create chances with Ben Wood, Gary Hickling, Lee Thompson and Carlos Meakin working hard. After 15 minutes, England began to take a firm foothold in the game and created several good chances. First, Richard Georgiou was played through by Neil Murphy and would have been clean through had the offside flag not been raised. Thompson saw his first effort hit wide of the goal when given too much space by the Scottish defence and then Georgiou and Thompson combined well but Georgiou couldn't quite get his shot away before the defender cleared. Chris Lock was replaced early on by Matt Price due to injury, but this didn't change the flow of the game too much. Despite the chances, England couldn't quite produce the bit of real quality needed in the final third to take the lead. A free kick

on thirty minutes was cleared by the Scots. England had defended also defended well with Murphy as strong keeping the Scots out as he was going forward. Rob Tonks and Rob Stapleton held the centre firm whilst the ever dependable Rick Wheelan was up to the challenge when called upon. It felt like England may pay for their missed chances and slowly Scotland began to get more into the game. A couple of efforts fired wide and hooked over from a corner showed their intent. Englands final chance to take the lead came just before the break. Whelan swung over a dubious corner and the keeper did well to tip the ball onto the bar and eventually it was cleared. HT 0-0

Englands best chances had passed and the Scots took the lead through a Scott Murphy free kick from 20 yards +. Keeper Taylor would have been disappointed not



to keep it out. England continued to press and look for an equalizer throughout the second half, but as they did, the Scots had their own chances and really should have made more of several other chances they created towards the end. Another disappointing result but a much improved performance by the team in a game which really could have gone either way. England have plenty of work to do and new players may be added to the squad over the summer. We will return stronger next year!



England Squad (above), Man Of The Match Neil Murphy with UK Secretary Liam Wheeler (Top) and England Secretary Dave Gilbert presents a framed shirt to Fiona Critchley of Section sponsors, Gerda Security (Left)