



England Fire Service 2-1 Wales Fire Service

Squad;

C Hasler (London)

J Oatley (London)

A McLurg (GMC)

K Brookes (Lincolnshire)

R Stapleton (Cornwall)

B Sebuliba (London)

R Whelan (GMC)

M Price (West Mids)

A McManus (West Yorkshire)

C Lock (London)

J Ogden (GMC)

U Ikhiewe (Merseyside)

R Tonks (South Yorkshire)

D Gilbert (Lincolnshire)

S Pickles (Humberside)

England Section;

Dave Gilbert (Lincolnshire)

Jake Bristow (Essex)

Gary Phillips (GMC)

Shaun Pickles (Humberside)

Forthcoming Fixtures;

Scotland (Manchester) 21st April

Tonks wins it for England

England travelled to Cardiff for their annual match against Wales last week. Manager Rob Tonks was looking forward to selecting from a strong squad, however last minute withdrawals and injuries forced his hand in terms of team selection. Playing on the 3G surface at Cardiff University in Llanrumney, England kicked off and they were straight onto the front foot and began to press the Welsh team back immediately. Chris Lock, back in the team, showing some lovely touches to link up play with Uche Ikhiewe in the early stages. It was England that created the best chances throughout the first half and dominated possession. Andy McManus and Matt Price worked tirelessly in the centre of the park to win the ball and use it to good effect.

Meanwhile, Rick Whelan continued his good form with plenty of powering

runs down the left hand side. And mid way through the first half it was Whelan who made the breakthrough. Good play down the right allowed Kel Brookes to get in a looping cross to the back post, which was met by the inrushing Whelan who powered a header home to give England the lead. The goal was no more than England deserved as Keeper Hasler remained relatively unused during the first half. England continued to enjoy more possession against a tough Wales side who's number 7 started to show some classy touches up front. Rob Stapleton and Kel Brookes kept firm at the back though and for the most part, with the solid Alex McLurg and Whelan, looked a good defensive team. However, a momentary lapse in concentration allowed Wales a chance, which they took well. The ball was played out to the edge of the box and the Wales striker hit a hard low shot past Hasler to equalise. HT 1-1. The second half started more

evenly with both teams struggling to create any good chances in the first half. John Ogden replaced Hasler in goal and Manager Rob Tonks then replaced Stapleton and it was his introduction which had an instant impact. Tonks took up a great position on the right and curled a sweet shot which looked destined for the top corner. Alas, the ball just went wide. But then moments later, a marauding run and good ball over from the right by Brendan Sebuliba was met by a Tonks header. This time he guided the ball back across goal and into the net to give England the lead. The effort took its toll and he was replaced due to injury shortly after. A couple of nervy moments ensued at both ends, as Wales pushed for an equaliser and England were allowed that bit more space, but the referee finally blew his whistle to give England the victory. Overall a good solid performance by the England team, with Alex McLurg picking up the Man of the Match award and England ready for the showdown with Scotland in Manchester in April.



The England squad that faced Wales in Cardiff