

RAF Football Association - E-Bulletin

Thomas 'Jonah' Jones Memorial Match



Bromsgrove Sporting FC 2 – RAF SRT 1

The RAF SRT were the guests of Bromsgrove Sporting FC on 16 Oct to play in the Thomas 'Jonah' Jones memorial match. After an impeccably observed minutes silence, the teams were ready for the off.

The match started at a good pace with both sides working hard to close each other down and make it difficult for anyone to have time on the ball. With half chances for both sides, it was at the quarter of an hour mark when Sporting opened the scoring. A good passage of play on their right flank created space for a lovely pass through the middle. With the RAF defence at full stretch, the ball eluded the outstretched leg of the last man and Heath went through with only Adams to beat. Adams advanced to narrow the angle but Heath fired a lovely shot in the left corner of the goal.

The RAF didn't take long to trouble the Sporting keeper and on 18 mins a cheeky effort nearly outwitted the keeper but he was able to adjust his feet and gather going backwards. Soon after this the crowd broke out into applause across the ground to remember Jonah.

The RAF levelled the score after good interplay on the right created space for a decent cross. Despite there being bodies in the box, it alluded everyone but Jenkins had remained deep and picked up the loose ball. Cutting inside from the left he curled a peach of a strike into the top right corner with the Sporting keeper not standing a chance of saving it. 1-1. As both sides continued to create openings there was surely more goals to come but on 40 mins when Sporting broke quickly down the right, but when the shot was unleashed at the goal, Adams was a match for it and deflected it wide with his feet. Minutes later the RAF broke but on the edge of the box, Sporting conceded a free kick. Dave Webb stepped up and curled his effort around the wall and it looked like the RAF were about to take the lead but the Sporting keeper at full stretch managed to get enough contact with the ball to turn it wide. Half Time 1-1.



The second half started in a similar way to the first with plenty of passion and desire evident from both sides. On 50 mins Glibbery tried to lob the keeper from outside of the box after riding a couple of challenges and showing great strength but the keeper was nimble enough to get back and catch the ball.

Sporting added to their tally on 54 mins with Pryce given too much space, allowing him time to pick his finish with a clinical strike. Adams was soon in action again after Sporting broke down the right and cut into the box but Adams was a match and stopped well.

A flurry of substitution saw both sides freshen things up. With the most notable substitution being Tom Claisse who was returning to action after a prolonged period out with injury. As a stalwart of the RAF SRT, it was good to see him back on the pitch.

The RAF nearly levelled after a strong run from Webb saw him deliver a decent cross into the box but unfortunately it was behind the on-rushing attackers. Undeterred by the ball being behind him, Woodhouse made contact with a back heel flick, like a scorpion kick but the keeper was in the right place to gather the effort, more by luck than judgement. Despite pushing, the RAF were unable to level again and on balance the Sporting Team were probably the right victors on the night, albeit it was a close affair.

With an attendance of 1641 and over £7000 raised to help Jonah's family, this match was more than just another game.

Manager Kev Barry said after the game *'The final whistle was full of emotion for many reason as we all know, however it was a moment for the family and supporters of the Bromsgrove community to embrace with both hands and they did. Although closure will never be there for the family as such a tragic death never really allows that, the family will always remember that the RAF Football family did all they could to show their support at a time of need. My final word is for my players, their passion, pride and respect for the occasion was incredible, true military men at their best. I can't thank them enough for their commitment and effort.'*

RAF FA E-Bulletin – SRT vs Bromsgrove Sporting FC
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