

Sunday May 4 – Prague

Bouncing Czechs Nick It!

SC Veltz Veterans 2 – 1 Over Veterans
Purkiss

Bill Handley writes—Over Vets’ third European adventure saw them visit SC Veltz, a team from a village some twenty-five minutes drive from the Czech capital. Having already been ‘on-tour’ for two full days, one or two players were looking decidedly jaded as they disembarked from the coach. They knew that they had to make their much abused bodies compete on a hard, dry pitch in temperatures well into the seventies (for the benefit of players coming through the club’s youth policy that’s well into the twenties °C). It was a daunting prospect. Spirits were remarkably high however and Over were ready to play thirty minutes before any Veltz players had shown up. Eventually both teams appeared with Over looking resplendent in a new strip that had been delivered only an hour before Bob’s boys left for the tour.

Pre match photos taken, the referee, who bore a striking resemblance to Pierluigi Collina, got the match under way. The Over centre-forward (who, due to reporting restrictions, has to remain nameless (*let’s just just say he has ginger hair – Ed*)) announced his intentions by blasting the ball skyward from the kick-off in the general direction of the Veltz right-back. The above mentioned player’s body was present but his brain had been left behind somewhere in Prague, undoubtedly along with much of his stomach contents. His fate was to be substituted on the half-hour mark, subsequently spending time asleep on the sub’s bench to reappear, only slightly more conscious, in the second half.

Over took a while to get into their stride. Coach Bainbridge’s patience lasted a full two minutes before he snapped, uttering a stream of Anglo-Saxon words of encouragement. At this, Over began to press forward, resulting on the ten minute mark with the first shot from the Kegworth guest player Alan ‘Johno’ Johnston. Playing out of position, he struck the ball venomously but high and wide, leading to coach Bob shouting “well, it’s a ***** shot . . . and a fine”.

Time to throw those toys out of the pram as . . .

Tournament Squads Announced

Following much head-scratching, jiggery-pokery, midnight-oil burning and delicate negotiations with all concerned, the following two squads have been pieced together from the eighteen names put forward to the Hon. Sec. All complaints on a postcard etc etc.*

Over United (white-ish shirts)

M Dollard
R Dickinson
B Bainbridge
M Little
R Tassell
A Smith
B Handley
P Clarke
A Carman

Over City (blue shirts)

A Smart
M Armstrong
I Sutton
D Boothroyd
S Baker
G Rule
B Chapman
D Tassell
M Mackinnon

The fun starts at 12 noon and the other teams taking part are: Kegworth (the holders), Haslingfield and, participating for the first time, Cambridge.

This year we have asked the Scouts to organise the traditional after-tournament barbecue and this will be available from about 6 o’clock onwards. It is open to all, not just those playing in the tournament and, having been advertised around the village, it is expected to be quite busy. There is also a beer tent by the patio, opening Friday evening, where Chairman Bill will be ‘entertaining’ some of the Kegworth lads (in other words ensuring that they sample all the available ales). Finally, Margaret Somner is having a birthday disco in the hall on Saturday night to which all members and partners are invited.

**Which will, in time-honoured fashion, be immediately binned, unread.*

Play settled down with Over competing well with a skilful Czech side. On twenty-four minutes and against the run of play, Veltz scored the opener. An unfortunate slip by Blanchflower (no relation to the footballer) allowed the Veltz number 13 in to strike the ball at close range giving the sprawling (*that’s a bit personal – Ed*) “Uncle” Martin Dollard no chance.

Over’s response was impressive when three minutes later, Brian “bring me off for God’s sake” Chapman threaded a defence splitting ball through to give Purkiss a one on one with the Veltz ‘keeper, only to see both ball and Over player rolling over the goal-line.

Over continued to react positively and forayed frequently into Veltz territory, Andy Smart loosing off a couple of fierce shots but the Veltz keeper was never seriously troubled. As half time approached the unfortunate Dollard had

to retire with a twisted knee and was replaced by Dave “where’s me socks” Gordon.

Overcoming the searing pain of jogger’s nipple, captain for the day Mike Little’s half-time team talk was typically to the point and left a few people (players and spectators alike) with singed eyebrows. His straight talking was effective and Over came out for the second half with renewed vigour. Andy Smart headed from a corner but the goal-bound ball was taken confidently by the goalkeeper.

The Over team looked more balanced by this time with Alan Johnston now playing very well, having moved to his familiar position at the heart of the defence and Andy Smart seemingly everywhere. However, there were reminders that Veltz remained dangerous, when soon afterwards they

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tried unsuccessfully to chip Dave Gordon and then forced him into an acrobatic save some minutes later.

The increasingly effective Albert "Chair-trick" Smith was giving his full-back a torrid time to such an extent that the Veltez defender had to resort to ruthless tactics to stop his man. In his usual relaxed way, Albert rode most of the fouls and then penalised the Veltez man by dribbling past him and slipping an exquisite pass through to Purkiss who volleyed the ball into the Veltez goal with his left foot. Delirious with pleasure, Purkiss spent the rest of the tour "talking everyone through it". Though we couldn't bear to say so at the time Ian, it was a good goal.

Only two minutes later, Veltez had regained the lead. Winning a free kick about thirty yards out the Veltez skipper bent it Beckham-like past the Over mini-wall and the diving Gordon. Although Dave might have saved it on another day, it was nonetheless a very good free kick.

Conscious that he had a reputation to uphold in European football, Muggeridge then sent a Veltez player hobbling from the pitch shortly afterwards. Just to add variety to his game and following a fine save, Dave Gordon went walkabout, Bartz style, to the left touchline but Veltez couldn't take advantage.

Thus the game ended with another defeat in Europe for the Vets but on a hot, tiring day on a very hard pitch and with skilful opposition, Over gave a highly creditable performance. There was, perhaps, an indication that Over's competitive spirit was not particularly appreciated by the home side who, to a man, left the ground without saying a word. As Private Jones used to say "they don't like it up 'em".

On this occasion and for the first time the players and supporters voted their 'Man of the Match'. It was a very close vote with Alan Johnston and Andy Smart losing out narrowly to Albert Smith but all three players had excellent games.

Team (rolling subs and in no particular order): *Dollard, Gordon, Dickinson, Little, Johnston, Swain, Chapman, Munro, Purkiss, Bainbridge, Muggeridge, Smith, Smart, Blanchflower.*

Sunday March 16 – Elsworth

Carman Brace Seals It for Over

Cambourne 0 – 2 Over Veterans

Carman 2

Bill Handley writes—The Vets last game prior to the Czech trip was against a spirited Cambourne team. Since the planners had failed to spot that football is quite a popular sport, no pitch was available at Cambourne and the match was played at Elsworth.

On first appearances, things looked bleak for Over. Andy Carman managed to don his shorts both back to front and inside out and missed the warm-up (*what's a warm-up – puzzled Ed.*) trying to sort out the problem. Moreover the Cambourne team looked fit and keen and Baker and Handley, normally famous for unwarranted optimism, were shaking their heads predicting that the Vets would be completely knackered by half-time.

Over started brightly and early pressure led to two corners but these were ably dealt with by the Cambourne defence. After five minutes, Adam Stevenson saw an excellent strike tipped onto the bar by the Cambourne goalkeeper, who had an excellent game.

After 20 minutes, Cambourne began to exert some pressure and Dave Boothroyd's normally impeccable English suddenly let him down. As Over conceded their first corner it started:

'Getthebluddythingaweh' he blurted before heading the ball to safety. After this he demonstrated his total command of 'Uddersfieldese with phrases like "gi'thebluddything t'third lace 'ole up" and "faantastic Andeh". Actually his murderous use of English was soon

forgiven as he led the Over defence and gave an excellent personal performance.

Over then took control for large parts of the game. After 25 minutes an excellent through ball from Andy Smart saw Andy Carman one-on-one with the Cambourne keeper, who saved for a corner. A few minutes later, Carman again ran onto a through ball but saw his first time 20 yarder sail over the bar. Adam Stevenson had a good game on the right side of midfield and just before half time attempted to chip the Cambourne goalkeeper, only to see the ball hit the post. Over's first goal came after 40 minutes and it was Andy Carman who prevailed, after beating the goalkeeper to a 50-50 ball. In the second half, Over consistently contained Cambourne's advances and after 80 minutes Andy Carman scored Over's second goal, picking up a rebound following another fine save and hooking the ball in from a tight angle from 6yds out.

At the end the doom merchants were proved wrong. Even the least youthful Over player was still running and competing and the smile on coach Bainbridge's face at the final whistle matched that on his face 15 minutes later as he tucked into his first pint of the day.

Team: Briggs; Collett, Boothroyd, Smart, Milne, Smith, Yearsley, Stevenson, Clarke; Carman, Tassell major. Subs: Simon Jarvis and Mark Pleasance.

BAINBRIDGE RETURNS – BIGGER HORROR!

Court Circular

June 2003

The Palace of St Fred, Over

Following the announcement in the previous edition of the 'Git that Duke Bainbridge of Roker Park had handed his official notice of retirement to the Hon. Sec. (*Bainbridge Retires Horror!*), Scoop Armstrong would like it known that he supplied the story in good faith and is as upset as anyone that Bainbridge has decided to carry on 'playing'. Furthermore Scoop would also like it known that should Bainbridge 'retire' again, he will personally go round with a pair of extra-small nutcrackers and ensure that promises made are promises kept.

Vets T-Shirts Now In

The Vets are now proud owners of grey marl t-shirts bearing our own logo and that of our generous sponsor Mr Mike Little. Whilst many have been handed out to members, I am aware that not everyone has one yet, so I will be taking them along to the tournament on Saturday for anyone who would still like one.

Sean

Cricket Match v Baptists Wed June 11

Mike Day and the Baptist Chapel have challenged us to a game of cricket next Wednesday, June 11 on the Green.

Those currently playing for the Vets are: Dave Tassell, Chas Cook, Paul Briggs, Bob Bainbridge, Andy Buck, Bill Handley, Bob Milne, Paul Collett, Mark Nichols and Richard Dickinson. If anyone else wants to play, please contact either Sean or Mike Day. Alternatively just turn up around 6.30 on the day.