

## Cheshire Boxing Matches Masters: Over 40's and Over 50's

Cheshire 40s 3 - Lancashire 40s 2

The first game of the day went ahead under great conditions. With no training and a number of team introductions being done before and during the game, it was somewhat of a disjointed start for the Cheshire team made up of individuals from a wide range of clubs.

The aim before the game as to play with a smile on our faces and to move the ball around. With a strong spine of ex-national league players, The patterns of player created a number of opening which quickly tested the opposition keeper but the shots were either straight at him or wide of the mark. However, Lancashire were playing a fast breakaway game and on one occasion outnumbered the Cheshire defence and snatched an early lead.

Cheshire struck back quickly and with Geoff Price spreading long passes and opportunity arose for skipper Mark Fullerton at the far post and he shovelled in the ball to bring the scores level.

More sustained pressure saw a number of penalty corners and eventually Geoff Price scored by pushing the ball hard and found a goal as teh defender was unable to control the ball. Two one up going into half time and the bulk of the play.

The second half aim was to keep the ball away from the opposition. This game plan was well executed and the chances just kept being created. With Stephen Bolton unable to find the target on his home ground it was left to Tim Alexander to covert and make it 3 1. The chances kept coming as Lancashire tired but Cheshire were unable to convert and with the defence pressing high a mistake led to a single Lancashire chance from the top of the D which they converted. Cheshire comfortably controlled possession to finish a very good game 3 2 up.



### **The following were in the Cheshire squad:**

Rob Turner, Jules Sykes, Jimmy McKenna, Greg Brooker, Geoff Price, Neil Titford, John Martin, Jonny Davies, Richard Midgely, Stephen Bolton, Mark Fullerton (capt), Derek-Millard Smith, Tim Alexander, Mark Richie, Glen Costain.

Coach: John Dixon

## Cheshire 50's 5 v 1 Lancashire 50's



### CHESHIRE 50's Team

Back Row ( L to R ) Rob Fisher Derek Field Ed Johnson Paul Williams Ady Holah Mark Jones Hedley Pollard

Middle Row : Albert Marcano

Front Row ( L to R ) Phil Brown Mark Whalley John Stackhouse ( Capt ) Gareth Pask Richard Wesencraft Stuart Nicholson

This year's event took place on Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017 and hosted very well by Timperley. The weather was kind, and the pitch played very well following overnight rain.

The 40's playing first, gave us a boost by winning 3- 2 having come back from being a goal down.

Rob Fisher, Derek Field, Ed Johnson, Albert Marcano and Stuart Nicholson. Were 5 new faces joining the squad. And 5 different scorers in the 5 – 1 victory.

Following a decent prep and discussion. Reflected on last year's game and had a plan for the first half. Which was to start quickly and get the ball forward to our forwards, keeping passes simple and not forcing ball. And could not have wished for a better start going one up in the first few minutes from a well worked short corner, Stuart Nicholson slapped in from a narrow angle.

The second goal came mid-way through the first half when Rob Fisher finished well taking the keeper by surprise with a swift flick from the edge of the D.

Third goal coming just before half time after a well worked moved was cleverly finished by Albert Marcano.

The plan for the second half was similar to the first, trying to keep ball and keep it moving and keep ball pace high. This worked well and Cheshire like the first half took the lion's share of the second, helped for sure from the younger element of the squad who began to control the mid-field.

Despite conceding a goal in the second half, Cheshire converted two more goals, one rocket shot from the top of the circle from Gareth Pask after he picked up a cross from the left wing, and it was no surprise that Phil Brown scored the final goal as he had been finding good positions in the opposition circle throughout the game.

A very enjoyable day all round for Cheshire