

Winking Frog FC

The hot season in Thailand runs from March through May, right? Wrong! 9th October 2004 was the auspicious date for Londoners FC's inaugural fixture in the Bangkok Casual League and as the teams ran on to the park they were greeted by temperatures in excess of 36 degrees Celsius, or in the words of an immortal GI disc jockey many years ago HOT DAMN HOT!

Unblooded but proud the boys in red and white took to the field for the first time to face the green and white livery of The Winking Frog who were also facing their league debut. Hot off the blocks Londoner shot into the lead with less than three minutes on the board when a searing run from Downer shot down the left followed by a cross to the middle which was flicked effortlessly past the keeper by Andy Wild for a fine first ever goal for the team. Mindless of the overhead conditions both teams ran about like schoolboys throughout the first 15 minutes before fatigue rather than sense took over proceedings. During that period Danny Kemp had flashed an effort over the bar from close range as Londoner pressed to extend their advantage.

Andy Wild added to his total and the teams in the 20th minute when he raced through to lift the ball over the advancing keeper. Winking Frog were finding it difficult to contain the youthful exuberance of many of the youngsters in the Londoner team with Drakon in particular causing havoc on the right side firing over a series of pinpoint crosses into the opposition goalmouth. John Wilde, Andy's partner in arms leading the line had to be told about the game at the end after a solid clout to the back of the head appeared to take the edge off his memory and he was replaced by Manas mid way through the first period. Highlights of this period of play include woodwork being struck, a missed penalty when a hat trick beckoned for Andy Wild, in fairness an excellent save from the keeper being responsible, and a header from 4 yards out from the same player who after going by the coaching book and heading a superb Drakon cross downwards into the ground . . . watched in stunned silence as it bounced up and over the bar! Londoner finally added to the scoreline 5 minutes before the end of the half when Manas blasted a rebound beyond the reach of the heavily overworked keeper for number three. Finally just as the referee was looking at his watch to blow for half time Drakon swung yet another cross over and this time Andy got it right and headed firmly into the net to secure his overdue hat trick.

Half time: Winking Frog 0 v Londoner 4

Winking Frog introduced a number of late comers to their line up at the start of the second half which added considerable bite and for large parts of the second half they were competitive and had a number of chances to hit back but the defence marshalled superbly by Ball aided and abetted by the Stamp brothers and new recruit James Frith held out throughout. Londoner had extended their lead further in the 50th minute when Manas added to his total with a tap in and taken any thoughts of fight back out of the opposition two minutes later when Paam drove a 25 yard effort high into the net with ridiculous ease. Manas got his hat trick on 60 minutes, Andy Wild added his 4th ten minutes from time and John Wilde got off the mark blasting home from 1 yard with the keeper nowhere 4 minutes from time. Given the high temperatures it was no surprise that the pace of the game had dropped markedly especially the last twenty minutes of the second period but it was to their credit that Winking Frog pushed all the way to the end and were unlucky not to get a consolation goal at the death.

Full Time: Winking Frog 0 v Londoner FC 9

An excellent start to the season on their debut and beyond the wildest dreams of Assistant Manager Ken MacDonald it should be bourn in mind that in the following five games we will be meeting many of the contending teams and performances of at least this calibre will be required to ensure we are still in the running for honours at Xmas.