

AUTUMN GALA 2016

OVER KELLET F.C. v NETHER KELLET F.C.

Following months of hard work and long training sessions, it came down to this. On a bright but breezy day the first football game in recent years between Over Kellet F.C., lining up in green shirts and navy blue shorts, and Nether Kellet F.C., who lined up in yellow shirts and black shorts, got underway.

In the frantic opening moments of the game both sides competed well and most of the football was played in the centre of the pitch but with two minutes gone the first player to get on the score sheet was Scott McLaughlin who finished well from outside the area. Soon after, the lead was doubled; this time Ryan McLaughlin scored with a neat finish. Few would have predicted goals so early in the game and the confidence of Over Kellet began to grow. That was soon halted, however, when Nether Kellet's No 2 came up from the back to halve the deficit for the visitor's... Game on. The Over Kellet defence, marshalled by committed captain Mike Morris, alongside the ever reliable Paul Simmons and Chris Meaden, coped well with anything Nether Kellet could throw at them and provided goalkeeper Ryan Sharrock with excellent protection. With the game now a much more even affair, there was a chance for Over Kellet's energetic midfielder Ian Simmons to shoot from a distance, only for it to go narrowly wide. Ryan McLaughlin soon got his second goal of the game though, shortly followed by Ian Simmons scoring his first, giving the home side a 4-1 lead. With nine minutes of the game gone, Nether Kellet got on the score sheet again with their No 9 providing the finish. Over Kellet striker Ryan McLaughlin scored his hat trick soon after and the game was becoming stretched. Good chances for Ian Simmons and Magnus Mulliner from a distance had their opponents on the back foot but, against the run of play, Nether Kellet's No 9 broke free and clinched his second and Nether Kellet's third goal of the game on the 14th minute mark. Soon after Magnus Mulliner scored his first goal and the pattern of the game had been set with Over Kellet dominating proceedings. It was just a matter of time before more goals came and so it proved when Ryan McLaughlin scored again after rattling the woodwork with a shot from a distance just moments before. With 20 minutes on the clock the tireless Mark Wilder got in on the act, scoring his first goal of the game, a goal which his hard work throughout the first half thoroughly deserved. Magnus Mulliner then scored his second goal of the game, although this proved to be a bittersweet moment for the pacey winger as he was forced off the field of play through injury just seconds after. Over Kellet's goalkeeper Ryan Sharrock, who had little to do up to this point, pulled off a fine save from Nether Kellet's No 12, in an attack which was becoming increasingly rare for the away side. With the last action of the first half Ryan McLaughlin scored his fifth of the game and brought the half to a close—a half in which Over Kellet could be very pleased with their efforts and a score line they fully deserved.

Half Time: Over Kellet F.C. 10 – 3 Nether Kellet F.C.

After a 15-minute break, the second half got underway with little change in the flow of the game. A succession of goals followed with Ryan McLaughlin scoring his sixth and seventh within a matter of minutes after the restart. By now, Over Kellet were in complete control, although Over Kellet goal keeper Ryan Sharrock kept his concentration and pulled off a string of fine saves in the opening minutes of the second half. This seemed to knock the confidence of the Nether Kellet team and they visibly faded. With the second half just seven minutes old, Ian Simmons scored his second goal of the game, quickly followed by a brace scored by Chris Meaden who had ventured up field from right back. He had proved a thorn in Nether Kellets side all afternoon with his work rate and desire. Ryan McLaughlin and his brother Scott McLaughlin had been making a nuisance of themselves up front for Over Kellet throughout the game and kept the Nether Kellet defence on their toes. Both scored their final goals of the game in the 49th and 51st minute to cap a very good performance by the pair. With ten minutes to go Nether Kellet got on the score-sheet again with a good finish from their No 12. Chris Meaden then scored his hat trick with five minutes to go with a well-taken goal after some good work from Over Kellet defender Stephen Simmons who provided the assist. Mike Morris signed off with his first goal of the game with a minute to go, an accomplished performance by the captain. Nether Kellet scored what proved to be their last goal of the game with No 7 providing the finish, although it was little consolation for the Nether Kellet team who will know they need to improve in the future. The Over Kellet defence in the form of Paul Simmons, Mike Morris and Chris Meaden showed themselves to be exceptional in keeping the Nether Kellet strikers in check with brilliant performances from the men at the back and this only served to provide solid foundations for the Over Kellet forward men to play with freedom and show what they could do. With the game going into injury time, a chance came and went for Over Kellet forward Allan Simmons who had only been on the field a matter of moments. With some heroic last ditch defending to clear his lines, Ian Simmons had proved to be a vital cog in the Over Kellet machine and covered every position on the field for his team. The last chances of the game fell to Allan Simmons who brought a comfortable save from the Nether Kellet goalkeeper. Determined to make amends for this wasted opportunity, he then provided the assist for Stephen Simmons to score the final goal of the game with a composed finish.

Full Time: Over Kellet F.C. 20 – 5 Nether Kellet F.C

Overall, the game was an entertaining one with chances falling to both sides early on. The frantic opening minutes gave way to a more even, competitive affair as the first half drew to a close. As the second half got underway the control and dominance of Over Kellet F.C. became clear and although a number of opportunities fell to Nether Kellet as the game wore on, the continued hard work, commitment and desire of the Over Kellet team made sure their victory was a convincing one.



Over Kellet F.C. team from left to right: Stephen Simmons, Paul Simmons, Mike Morris (C), Mark Winder, Ian Simmons, Ryan Sharrock, Scott McLaughlin, and Ryan McLaughlin. **Front:** Allan Simmons.

Special mentions go to Magnus Mulliner and Chris Meaden (not pictured) who played their part in a very entertaining game.