

**League 2      Brentford      1      v      0      Bury      28<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

Marcus Bean

Bury vs. Brentford was anticipated as the top League 2 match of the weekend with 1<sup>st</sup> going against 3<sup>rd</sup>. What made this game even more exciting in the build up was that these are two footballing sides which meant that it should also be a good footballing game. Bury's start showed signs of this as they were playing good football down their right with Bennet being a key factor in this play. Although a lot of it tended to be wasted as Hamer was comfortable with collecting all of the crosses put in. The referee started to show this was not going to be the free flowing passing game that we had hoped for as he would constantly blow his whistle which destroyed the flow of the game. At the beginning Bury looked comfortable in dealing with Brentford's attacks but the clearances were less than assured which shows that they weren't fully comfortable and could be pressured into mistakes. The game became an aerial battle as most of the time the ball was in the air which wasn't good for Brentford as Sodje was able to dominate both Rhodes and MacDonald in the air. Bury were still enjoying success down their right and Bennet put in a good cross which got to the back post for Mike Jones who was unlucky to have his shot superbly saved by Hamer. Bennet started to lose out to Wood on the right so he moved more centrally and took a few shots, from one of these he earned a corner which found its way towards the goal from the crowd of players in the 6 yard box, only to be scrambled off the line by Hamer. Wood then had a dangerous crossing free kick position which he whipped in, it was headed clear but only as far as Marcus Bean on the edge of the area who smashed a left footed volley through the crowd and past Tyler and rustled into the net. Bean scored for Brentford on 38 minutes to give the table toppers the lead. After this goal against the run of play it didn't look like Bury had what it took to add to Brentford's solitary home loss as Brentford started to dominate. After the break Bury look lively but were still booting the ball up the field rather than play the passing football we know they can. A pretty eventless second half was livened up when Bury's Stephen Dawson was penalised for handball on the edge of their box he was given his second yellow card and much to his fury he was promptly sent off. Surprisingly 10 men Bury dominated the latter stages of the match and Bishop had a great chance after Beans intercepted pass but his control let him down and it went harmlessly out for a goal kick. Possibly Bury's last chance was a dangerous free kick about 20 yards out but it harmlessly hit the wall. The full time whistle went and the chant "We are top of the league" hit Griffin Park. This result extends Brentford's unbeaten run to 5 but ends Bury's at 8 and as the fans said, keeps Brentford top of the league.

Brentford : Hamer; Halls, Phillips, Bennett, Dickson; Williams, O'Connor, Bean, Wood;  
MacDonald, Rhodes.

Subs : Brown, Newton, Osbourne, Elder ( for Rhodes 64 ), Hunt ( for Williams  
88 )

Bury : Tyler; Scott, Sodje, Cresswell, Buchanan; Bennett, Dawson, Barry-Murphy,  
Jones: Bishop, Morrell.

Sub : /haslam, Hurst, Rouse, Racchi, Baker ( for Jones 75 )

By Calum Gaughan