

Nicks scored 45 seconds into the game on a CK from Glenn toward the goal. The ball looked like it was dropping toward the near post but instead carried in a flatter trajectory to connect with Geoffrey's head in a clean directed strike. Nicks who were closer to the kick had risen to the ball, drawing the defense—and Geoffrey was in perfect position. Buoyed by the early goal, Nicks were intensely pressuring the ball and we effectively dominated. Royals only had 11 to start but got two more some ten or fifteen minutes into the game. The Nicks distribution forced Royals to chase often as we kept the ball wide. We were only challenged when their #4 (a newcomer) came up the middle or if Sully or Tom had runs in the front. Anatole and Bruce Soderberg were like a machine harvesting the incoming attack and spitting the ball back into the churn. As has been the case in the past two matches, we were effectively moving and passing. The biggest advantage, though, came because Nicks were pressing hard any time the Royals had the ball and it was difficult for them to break out.

Bruce B had very few chances to stop the ball as a result. Half ended with our crew holding on to the 1-0 lead. Our crew were cheerful but not exuberant—easy to suddenly be outstripped with a 1-0 lead. At the half we discussed spreading attack to the wing, taking it to the corner and cutting it back—a frequently mentioned concept. The second half began and we were able to hold our lead and to exert pressure on their end. Despite heroic effort on their part, we continued to succeed in keeping them in check for the most part. Again, our defensive line—Al and Jack and Tim and Anatole and Bruce S were solid. Finally we scored s second goal on Mark Vogel's looping cross to Jeff Heilman's head seven or eight yards out—and Jeff ally-ooped it over Mick's hands and under the bar. The pressure subsided. Nicks had several other dangerous attacks which we could not finish. The most memorable may have been the one where we passed the ball back and forth across the goal but didn't shoot. There was almost a second goal on another run by Geoffrey who took his shot one v one with the keeper but shot wide. And there were more. Robert shot. Bruce Soderberg shot—the game was ours to lose and we did not.

When all was over, [2 - 0 Old Nicks v. Royals Oct. 26, 2019] we were excited to recall that *we have won four in a row*—a feat not achieve for years.

David Porter Oct.30, 2019

Old Nicks Manager