

31/03/2001

Fireworks at Bukit Jalil

MPPJ 7 BJSS 5
SPMC 1 PKNS 0
BPSS 3 Forces ... 0
Datuk Taha...0 TNB 0

THE 2001 National Junior League started with a bang yesterday as Petaling Jaya Municipal Council (MPPJ) downed last year's top four team Bukit Jalil Sports School 7-5 in a match that could have gone either way.

That match was also rather grand as despite the small number of spectators, it was held at the main pitch of the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil which was reserved for the finals in the previous editions of the league.

Bukit Jalil started as the more consistent team. They failed to convert a second minute penalty corner but went one up a minute later Mohammad Anwar Ali beat MPPJ keeper Mohamed Mahathir Tayin for a field goal.

But the homeside's fortune started to change when a goalkeeping mistake by reserve Ahmad Kamil Mukhtar allowed MPPJ to level with a simple goal, courtesy of Al-Aman Mustafar, 11 minutes later.

That left the team almost in tatters and MPPJ capitalised on that by scoring four more goals before Bukit Jalil broke the bad spell through a 53rd minute penalty stroke by Mohamed Redza Maadun.

MPPJ scored another goal two minutes later but Bukit Jalil returned with two more to close the gap at 4-6 by the 63rd minute.

The following three minutes saw the teams scoring a goal each with Bukit Jalil wanting to have the last say but poor control and passing saw them fail to change the outcome as MPPJ won 7-5.

MPPJ coach Roslan Salikon was relieved with the score as he admitted Bukit Jalil could have turned the tables in the last few minutes.

In Malacca, reigning league champions Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) drew 0-0 with Datuk Taha Secondary School.

Both sides played a balanced game despite struggling to create a goal for their teams. Datuk Taha were awarded a penalty corner in the 28th minute but failed to deliver. TNB also failed to convert when they earned their only penalty corner in the 58th.

Datuk Taha got another chance in the 62nd minute when they earned another penalty corner but this was wasted too.

TODAY - Anderson v Olak (Azlan Shah Hockey Stadium); Malacca Municipal Council v Prai Municipal Council (Bukit Jalil Hockey Stadium); Petaling Jaya Municipal Council v Pahang Sports Council (PJ Hockey Stadium); TNB v Bukit Jalil Sports School (KL Hockey Stadium) - all matches at 5.30pm.

(END)