

* - SUBSTITUTED

SUNDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2001

MERCURY WALTHAM SUNDAY LEAGUE (DIVISION ONE) MATCH AT HOME TO ABBEY YOUTH OLD BOYS

KICK OFF 10.30 AM. AS HAZELWOOD SPORTS GROUND

SCORE: EDMONTON ROVERS 6 ABBEY YOUTH OLD BOYS 3 HALF-TIME: 1-1

TEAM	THROW IN OF 10	MARKS OUT OF 10	SCORERS
1. GK ¹ Stavros ELIA	5	6½	ALB 20/00/01 20 1
2. RB ² Paul REBAIRO	50	7½	01/00/01 20 2
3. LB ⁴ Lee OSBORN	* (71) (m)	7	(MATTIN) 1/00/01 20 3
4. RM ⁷ Paul EULERKER	* (79) (m)	7	01/00/01 20 4
5. SW ¹⁰ Tony SPELLER	5	7	01/00/01 20 5
6. CM ³ Robin PRYKE	5	7	01/00/01 20 6
7. CM ¹¹ Scott ROBERTSON	50	7*	01/00/01 20 7
8. CM ⁸ Marco EULERKER	8	8	90 mins, 01/00/01 20 8
9. CF ⁵ Steve COKELL	5	7	87 mins, 01/00/01 20 9
10. CM ¹¹ Stuart DORWARD	50	7	01/00/01 20 10
11. LM ⁹ Derek DORWARD	5	8	25, 50, 61, 74 mins, 01/00/01 20 11
12. CM ¹⁸ Russell BEEDEN	* (71) (m)	6½	01/00/01 20 12
14. RM ¹⁷ Gary ODELL	* (79) (m)	6	01/00/01 20 14
15 - Gary SOUTHAM	-	-	01/00/01 20 15
16 -	-	-	-
17 -	-	-	-

OPPONENTS GOAL TIMES: GARY BROWNJOHN (PEN.) (30 mins), COLIN BROTHERTON (PEN.), IAN BROWNJOHN (90 mins)

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: L. HUGHES, T. HUGHES, P. HODGKINSON (MD)

CROWD: 13

CLUB LINESMAN: GARY SOUTHAM

REFEREE: JOHN COOKE

BOOKINGS: -

REFEREES' MARK (OUT OF 10): 9

SENDING OFFS: -

WEATHER CONDITIONS: CLOUDY WITH OCCASIONAL LIGHT RAIN. 'STIFF BREEZE' ACROSS PITCH

STATE OF PITCH: SOFT AND MUDDY

Report: We continued our improved run of form with this vital win over bottom club Abbey Youth Old Boys, this being a game that we *had* to get three points from in order to avoid being sucked into a battle against relegation *ourselves*.

Having beaten Abbey 3-1 on the opening day of the season, they were bound to be fired up for revenge though, especially after reading my website comments about them 'having got steadily worse' and mocking *their* website's 'easy game on paper' comment !...Trust *me* to put my foot in it again ! (The Prince Philip of Edmonton Rovers !). *That* saw them turn up with a much stronger side than usual (with three substitutes available and only one player missing) whereas we had Paul Woolston out with a head injury, the in-form John Beasley away on Holiday in Tenerife and Steve Beasley visiting friends in South London amidst 'rumours' of him being disillusioned due to his current poor form and wanting to relinquish the captaincy !? However, that gave the likes of Paul Rebaire and Lee Osborn the chance to stake a claim for a regular place in the starting line-up in defence and they certainly didn't let the side down as we defended a lot better than of late (up until the 88th minute that is !), despite Abbey putting us under a lot of pressure in the First Half. However, with a strong wind behind us, we managed to force a number of corners which Scott Robertson invariably took superbly by 'whipping them in' towards the far post and Derek Dorward capitalised on one of them to head us into the lead in the 25th minute, only for Tony Speller to trip an Abbey forward in the area five minutes later to give them a penalty which Gary Brownjohn easily converted.

Match Report... Continued

Apart from *that* though, Stavros Elia didn't have to make a save in the First Half, even though he had plenty of catching practice from hopeful crosses, but we failed to make the most of a couple of good chances on the break and had to 'go in' level at Half-Time.

The Second Half was a different story though as, boosted by certain 'wind-up' comments from the touchline that his watching girlfriend Halina said she would 'give him something special tonight' if he scored a hat-trick, Derek Dorward duly obliged and even went one better when he scored his fourth in the 74th minute after a brilliant team move...this being yet another one of the Goal Of The Season candidates we are suddenly conjuring up ! That saw 'Del' enter the 'Record Books' to join his brother Stuart as joint holder of the 'Most Goals for Rovers in a Mercury Waltham League Match' record, before Steve Cokell scored another spectacular goal in the 87th minute to put us 5-1 up, which we assumed would be the final scoreline. However, with Abbey skipper Ian Brownjohn still fired up enough to aim pot shots (deliberately ?) at the cameraman and steam into some hefty challenges, the game wasn't dead *yet* (even though some of Brownjohn's team-mates appeared to have thought so) and with a bit of help from Stavros Elia, who let an overhit cross from defender Colin Brotherton sail over his head and then a scramble in the area which Brownjohn himself appeared to finish off on the goal-line, Abbey were suddenly in with a chance of a draw having pulled it back to 5-3, even though there was only a couple of minutes remaining...such is our leaky defence this season and our tendency to concede at least four goals a game whatever the opposition !

However, straight from the re-start after Abbey's *third* goal, Marco Ellerker obviously thought 'Enough of this nonsense !' and immediately ploughed his way through virtually the whole of Abbey's midfield & defence to make it 6-3 (with the help of a one-two with Stuart Dorward), Manager Trevor Hughes's description of this goal on his notepad simply saying '6th Goal..Marco..90 Minutes..Taking the Piss' !

Despite conceding two silly goals at the end, it was another good performance though and we now look to be on the right track at last...The only disappointment was in losing a brand new £45.00 Nike Match Ball for the second Home game running ! (Out of all the back gardens in Connaught Gardens it could have *gone* in, it had to go in the one where the occupants apparently keep all the balls and lock them away in their garage *deliberately*...out of spite because they are pissed off with throwing them *back* ! A legal letter from Trevor Hughes will be on it's way to them shortly !)