

Sunday 16th August 2009

Pre-Season Friendly Match at The Wood Green Community Sports Centre (3G AstroTurf)

A.C. ENFIELD	2	EDMONTON ROVERS	2	HT 2-1
F.Mingoia (4, 32 mins.)		Hagan (13 mins.) McGovern (48 mins.)		

A.C. ENFIELD'S LINE-UP: Marcello DEVIZIO (GK); Ollie KETTLE, Simon TAITT, David WILSON, Salvatore MINGOIA; Mario VIRCIGLIO, Diego DAFONTE, Jim PHILPOTT, Robert TEPPETT; Fabio MINGOIA, Ricky HODGE
Subs.: Giuseppe VIRCIGLIO, Gennaro VULLO, Tom COLLIER, Vince LAURELLA

EDMONTON ROVERS LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10): Simon JACKSON (GK) (6½); Tony KING (6), Scott JENKINS (7), Martin LOVEDAY (7½), Peter MURPHY (6); Joe ANSELL (6½), Danny HAGAN (6½), Danny SMITH (7), Steve COKELL (6½); Conor McGOVERN (7), Vernon NXUMALO (6)
Subs.: Tem ADIL (6) (On at Half-Time), Daniel DALEY (6) (On at Half-Time), Danny GREEN (6) (On at Half-Time)

Referee: Simon DRINKWATER

Weather Conditions: Fair

Attendance: 15

Report (by Laurence Hughes): With this match being a 9.30.a.m. kick-off, we fully expected a number of players to arrive either at 9.29.a.m. or to forget that it was an hour earlier than normal and turn up at their usual 10.10.a.m. instead. Amazingly though, all but two players were there by 9.00.a.m., with most of us all driving into the car park at exactly the same time, despite travelling from about 10 different directions. Absolutely uncanny! The biggest shock was seeing Scott Jenkins already there when we arrived though...and that he had apparently not been drinking the night before. Yes, he is that keen to play for Rovers at the moment! The latecomers were Peter Murphy (by about 10 minutes) and the previous week's 'hero' Daniel Daley, who turned up half-asleep half-way through the First Half for reasons best known to himself. Daley's eventual appearance made it a squad of 14, but as usual, we had 16 players originally, only for Clark Williams and Stuart Byhurst to both drop out on the morning of the match due to a golfing injury and a stomach bug respectively. That caused a real problem as although they are both normally midfielders, they were due to be playing in defence in this match with us missing the likes of Alan Barnard, Terry Moore, Paul Duffy, Paul Woolston, Jim Arrowsmith, Stuart Dorward, Rob Brown & Danny Bates for various reasons. That left Martin Loveday as our only recognised defender available, and this was his first game back after an ankle operation which had kept him out for the past two months. Midfielders Scott Jenkins, Tony King and Peter Murphy therefore had to make up the rest of what was a real makeshift back four with Tony never having played there before and Murf (a 45-year-old!) playing in his first match for two years after a long-term heel injury. It was no real surprise then when Division Two side A.C. Enfield took the lead after just 4 minutes when a rusty-looking Conor McGovern gave the ball away while most of our players were pushing forward, therefore leaving us vulnerable on the break, and that allowed Ricky Hodge (formerly known as Ricky Dear!) to set up Fabio Mingoia for an easy finish from close range with our 'defenders' all over the place.

However, Danny Hagan managed to equalise 11 minutes later with a shot on the turn into the bottom corner from just inside the area, but we went behind again in the 32nd minute with another disappointing goal when Mingoia scored his second with a long-range looping header from a quickly-taken throw-in.

That was how it stayed until Half-Time, but we had attacking options on the 'bench' to come on for the start of the Second Half in forwards Daniel Daley and Danny Green, although Daley had to play on the right of midfield where he invariably gets a 5 out of 10 rather than the 7 or more when he plays up front. Unfortunately neither of them made much impression, but at least Conor McGovern was starting to find his form as the game went on, and he managed to make it 2-2 in the 48th minute with a close-range header from the rebound after Danny Smith's (over-hit?) free-kick had been tipped onto the crossbar by former Rovers' keeper Marcello Devizio. In fact Devizio stopped us going 3-2 up just five minutes later with one of his trademark spectacular flying leaps to tip over a McGovern header from Peter Murphy's quality left-wing cross, but the game really fizzled out after that with both teams cancelling each other out and the final scoreline of 2-2 was a fair result in the end.

With A.C. Enfield having lost 4-0 to Division 3 side Hop Poles the week before and us fielding a much stronger side in attack than we did in the Highway United match thanks to McGovern, Steve Cokell and Vernon 'Kizza' Nxumalo all returning, it was a bit disappointing that we did not create more clear-cut chances. However, A.C. Enfield were well-organised at the back and fielding a much stronger side themselves, so considering that we once again had numerous players playing who didn't know each other when they turned up for this match, we did well to get a result. The best news from this match was undoubtedly the performance of Martin Loveday at the back when he was fearing he might only last 45 minutes after his ankle operation, while Scott Jenkins once again proved that he is well capable of gaining a regular place in the side as a defender if only he was prepared to play in that position as his first choice.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view A.C. Enfield's website.



TREVOR HUGHES's MANAGER'S REPORT

Our second pre season friendly was against Division 2 side AC Enfield who we played last season and lost 3-2. Our former goalkeeper, Marcello Devizio, was in goal for our opponents and another ex player, Kevin Dedman was among the spectators. We had a squad of 14 but again lots of team changes from last week. Martin Loveday returned from injury and was the only defender available so Tony King and Scott Jenkins had to play in defence along with Pete Murphy who was returning after a two year injury to play in an unfamiliar left back position. The midfield was a bit more settled with Joe Ansell, Danny Smith and Danny Hagan being joined by Steve Cokell. After his four goals last week Daniel Daley was late for the early kick off and dropped to the bench with Vernon 'Kizza' Nxumalo returning to partner last season's top scorer Conor McGovern. We had started quite well but Conor did a poor pass to give away possession and a quick break led to an easy finish and we went behind after just 4 minutes. For the second week running Danny Hagan scored our first goal with a good run from midfield and a good finish to equalise after 17 minutes. The game was fairly even but we went behind again after 32 minutes when a long throw was flicked on and the ball looped into the top corner. We brought on Daniel Daley, Tem Adil and Danny Green at half time and equalised again after just 3 minutes of the second half. Danny Smith's free kick was tipped onto the bar by March and Conor headed in from the rebound. Five minutes later an excellent cross by Murf was headed goalwards by Conor and March did a spectacular save to tip it over. At this stage we were on top but although both teams were searching for a winner there were few clear cut chances and the game finished 2-2.