

Sunday 7th March 2010 (SECOND MATCH OF DOUBLE-HEADER...30 Minutes each way)

Waltham Sunday League Division One Match at Turnford School, Cheshunt

EDMONTON ROVERS	0	A.F.C. CHESHUNT	1	HT 0-0
		Elliott (60 mins.)		

EDMONTON ROVERS LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10): Darryl JOHNSON (GK) (7); Terry MOORE (7); Alan BARNARD (7); Martin LOVEDAY (7); Kris SPYROU (6½); Rob BROWN (6½); Danny SMITH (6½); Steve COKELL (6); Terry BROWN (6); Conor McGOVERN (6); Vernon NXUMALO (6) **Subs.:** Tony KING (6½) (On for Cokell at H-T); Jim ARROWSMITH (6½) (On for Smith 42 mins.)

A.F.C. CHESHUNT'S LINE-UP: Adam KINGSHOTT (GK); Brad LACEY, Carl SMITHIES, Sam PEARL, Keith McCORDICK; Dan TWITCHINGS, Lee SMITH, Tom LANGSTON, Mark MALSHINGER; Josh SLABBER, Marc SMITH **Subs.:** Neil PURSER, Jamie ELLIOTT, Glen WAYMAN

Referee: Mark MORRIS

Weather Conditions: Sunny but cold

Attendance: 14

Report (by Laurence Hughes): For this second match, Manager Trevor Hughes decided to stick with his 3-4-1-2 formation, even though the odd player wanted to match A.F.C. Cheshunt's formation with a straightforward 4-4-2. With Paul Woolston having to go home after the first match due to family commitments then, the not-fully-fit (but when is he ever?) Martin Loveday started in place of him, therefore bringing together our regular back three, while Kris Spyrou started on the right in place of Tony King, and Steve Cokell moved to left midfield to replace Jim Arrowsmith with Vernon 'Kizza' Nxumalo starting in attack to try and give us a bit more pace up there.

Those changes worked to some extent, as the First Half of the second match was much more even. Our best chance in the first 30 minutes undoubtedly fell to Conor McGovern after an excellent move ended with a perfect cross from 'Kizza', but Conor missed the chance of a Goal Of The Season contender by volleying wide.

The First Half finished goal-less again (as it had in the first match) and both defences were still very well-organised and hard to break down, but the Second Half of this second match was much more open, which was probably always going to happen as players tired. Unfortunately though, A.F.C. Cheshunt created by far the better chances, especially in a 5-10 minute spell early in the half when they forced Darryl Johnson into making a couple of brilliant point-blank saves, this being in stark contrast to his performance in the first match. During the break between the two matches, I did see 'D.J.' coughing and spluttering as if he was just about to puke...so maybe he did somewhere out of camera shot and got it out of his system?

Just when it looked as if we would battle our way to a goal-less draw through some courageous defending though, A.F.C. Cheshunt brought on their only 'fat bloke' for the last few minutes, who up until then had been running the line (as if they were just giving him a brief run-out for a laugh). Of course he then went and scored with virtually the last kick of the game as he found himself unmarked at the back of the area to hit a shot which deflected in off Terry Moore and resulted in annoyingly manic celebrations as his team-mates jumped on him to celebrate a 1-0 victory and the six points that would lift them up to second in the table. Although it looked embarrassing, the player in question was in fact Jamie Elliott, who like most of A.F.C. Cheshunt's players had previously played in Senior Saturday football, so he was certainly no mug. The reason he was left unmarked though was because Kris Spyrou had gone off with cramp three minutes earlier and didn't make any attempt to hobble back on, therefore leaving us down to 10 men. That was more the fault of none of our players (and particularly Manager Hughes) knowing that when somebody goes down with cramp, you don't just push his foot up to stretch the calf...you give him some water to drink as well !!!

We got some new 'bottle green' (which were supposed to be jade) socks for this game, but can we have a physio please?



TREVOR HUGHES'S MANAGER'S REPORT

Martin Loveday replaced Woolly in defence for the second game and Kris Spyrou and Vernon 'Kizza' Nxumalo came into the starting XI to give us fresh legs. The pace of our opponents had slowed down and we felt we were the better side in the first half although we still created very few chances and it remained 0-0 at half time. Cheshunt improved in the second half and Darryl was forced to make several fine saves to keep us in the game. Rob Brown had our best chance shortly before the end but his backheel from Kizza's cross fell easily for the keeper. Kris Spyrou was suffering with cramp and came off with 3 minutes to go leaving us with 10 men but a 0-0 draw looked likely so we did not change our formation. Typically, the ball fell to the player who Kris would have been marking in the last minute and the shot deflected off Terry Moore to give Darryl no chance and we lost 1-0 again.

The honest assessment was that we probably deserved to lose both matches because of our poor offensive performance but we felt a bit unlucky not to pick up at least one point as both games were lost to a scrappy goal.