

**Sunday 13th October 2002**

London F.A. Sunday Intermediate Cup Second Round Match at Worsley Bridge Road, Lower Sydenham, SE26

**A.F.C. SAXON OF FOOTZIES**      **1**      **EDMONTON ROVERS**      **4**      HT 0-0

*N.Baker (83 mins.)*

*S.Dorward (52 mins.),  
Bromfield (58 mins.),  
Mc.Govern (79 mins),  
E.Ibekwem (88 mins.)*

**AFC Saxon of Footzies Line-Up:** Tony BAKER (GK); Jeffrey SANDERSON, Paul NELSON, Neil MISSEN, Ross WEEDEN; Peter MURPHY, Steve EVANS, Neil BAKER, Scott ENGLAND; Steve WILKES, Mark WALDRON **Subs.:** Paul BAKER, Gary JAMES, Gavin STEVENS

**Edmonton Rovers Line-Up (with Marks out of 10):** Shaun O'NEILL (GK) ( 7 ); Steve BEASLEY ( 7½ ), Paul WOOLSTON ( 8 ), Tony SPELLER ( 8 ), Lee OSBORN ( 7 ); Paul ELLERKER ( 7 ), Stuart DORWARD ( 7½ ), Derek DORWARD ( 7 ), Eric IBEKWEM ( 7 ); George BROMFIELD ( 6½ ) Conor Mc,GOVERN ( 7½ ) **Subs:** Marco ELLERKER ( 7 ), Chris 'Nugget' BEEDEN ( 7 ), Chidi IBEKWEM ( 6½ )

**Referee:** Graham WINTON (*Ealing*)

**Weather Conditions:** Cloudy with occasional rain **Attendance:** 28

**Report:** We made the long trip to South-East London for this match with a bit of a depleted 'party' in terms of the number of actual club members who were unavailable (or unwilling) to travel. That of course included Manager Trevor Hughes, who was stepping off a plane at Heathrow as we were about to kick-off, while our other prospective club linesman, General Manager Tim Beeden, was due to start work at 2.00.p.m. and originally would not have made it had he attended the game, although ironically he then received a phone call telling him to start work at 3.30.p.m. instead, so he ended up just sitting at home twiddling his thumbs...again ? while the usual heated arguments abounded back on the touchline in Lower Sydenham as to whose turn it was to take the flag and do the thankless task of running the line ! (In the end, Chidi Ibekwem & Russell Beeden ended up doing a half each...again !).

Although the likes of Robin Pryke, Lexton Harrison, Steve Cokell, Scott Robertson & Paul Rebaire were all absent due either to injuries, an exploratory knee operation (In Lexton's case) or a holiday (Rebaire), we still fielded a strong enough side that players of such proven quality as Marco Ellerker, Chris 'Nugget' Beeden & John Beasley all had to be named as substitutes because of the more than adequate form of some of the newcomers to our squad so far this season. However, we very nearly had a wasted journey as the lines had not been marked out on the pitch (*AFC Saxon of Footzies' own ground*) when we arrived and referee Winton was on the verge of postponing the match until a groundsman suddenly appeared with a line-marking machine and some corner flags at the 'last minute'...which was roughly at about the same time that AFC Saxon of Footzies suddenly had about 10 members of their squad turn up !?

Not that we could really blame them for being a bit unenthusiastic initially, as despite winning the Premier Division of the London & Kent Border Sunday League last season, they'd suffered a disastrous start to their League campaign *this* year with four defeats already, including a 13-0 hammering in one match ! However, they did manage to win 5-2 in the First Round of this competition (while we were receiving a Bye), and in fielding their strongest line-up this season so far for our visit it resulted in a closely-fought but goal-less First Half in which we created more chances, but AFC Saxon of Footzies wasted the best one half-way through the half when defender Jeff Sanderson scuffed a penalty well wide following a rash challenge by Lee Osborn.

The Second Half really saw us get our act together in front of goal though, especially after Stuart Dorward gave us the lead in the 52nd minute after running through a square defence on his own from the half-way line for an excellent solo goal, this being a possible Goal Of The Season contender and our Clip Of The Week at the time. George Bromfield then made it 2-0 just six minutes later when he 'deliberately ?' steered in Paul Woolston's fiercely-driven goalbound shot from close range after we had been given an indirect free-kick just inside the area for obstruction...a ruling that some of our players were claiming no longer exists *inside* the area and that a penalty should have been given ! (Are they *right* about this apparent 'New Change of FIFA Rule', Trev ?!).

To their credit though, AFC Saxon of Footzies didn't give up after that and we then had to defend really well to stop them getting back into the game, with Paul Woolston & Tony Speller being particularly outstanding at the back for us. We then needed some 'fresh legs' to come on to get a grip of the midfield and the introduction of Marco Ellerker and Chris 'Nugget' Beeden with around 15 minutes to go saw us do just that as stand-in Manager Russell 'Tarby' Beeden's switch to a 4-5-1 formation paid off as we hit AFC Saxon of Footzies numerous times on the break as they pushed forward. That resulted in Conor Mc,Govern rounding keeper Tony Baker to put us 3-0 up in the 79th minute after running onto Marco Ellerker's through ball, but the Home side did manage to pull a goal back in the 83rd minute when their Player-Manager Neil Missen (a former Arsenal & Millwall player) cleverly beat Steve Beasley to cross for Neil Baker to head in at the far post. However, we continued to defend well in general with Shaun O'Neill not having too much to do in terms of shot-stopping, unlike AFC Saxon of Footzies keeper Tony Baker, who had to make two or three excellent saves to keep his side in the match, although he had no chance of stopping Eric Ibekwem's shot in the 88th minute from the edge of the area which made it 4-1 and killed off the game.

All in all, this was a really good team performance and a big improvement on the previous week's 'scrambled' display against Chaseside Old Boys and with the journey to and from Sydenham being 'traffic-jam free', it was a good day for us all round.