

Sunday 6th November 2016

Barnet Sunday League Junior Cup First Round Match at the Edmonton Sports & Social Club (Pitch Two)

Kick-Off: 10.08.a.m. (Referee taking his time. Was supposed to be a 10.00 am Kick-Off)

Result: **EDMONTON ROVERS**.....2 **ALEXANDRA PARK VETS** 1 **Half-Time:** 2-0

SHIRT NUMBER	TEAM (4-1-4-1)			GOAL TIMES
1	GK	Stephen ROUSSEY		
15	RB/RM85	Curtis BAALAM		
16	CB	Ivan BASS		
5	CB	Tyronne PETRIE (Captain)		
3	LB	Aiden KAVANAGH		
14	CM Holding/CB55	Daniel CASCOE		
11	RM	Daniel DALEY	OFF 70	29 Mins.
6	CM	Khaheem MCKENZIE	OFF 64	
19	CM	Connor KAVANAGH		
10	LM/RM70/RB85	Andreas KRITICOS		
9	CF	Ayo MATTHEWS	OFF 61	40 Mins.
SUBSTITUTES				
12	CF	Tom CROAKE	ON 61	
7	CM	Hal OZKAN	ON 64	
17	LM	Marley MCKAY	ON 70	
OWN GOALS Scored For Us:				

MANAGER: Tony McKay

CLUB LINESMAN: Bob Cleary

ATTENDANCE: 19

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: L.Hughes, R.Bennett, L.McKenzie-McKay, H.Ofori, R.McKay

REFEREE: Dario Zavagno

BOOKINGS: None

SENDING-OFFS: None

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Sunny with cold strong blustery wind down pitch from corner to corner (against us 2nd Half)

STATE OF PITCH: Perfect

UNAVAILABILITY: (11 Players) Grant Baker (GK) (Injured), Danny Hagan (Other Commitments), Tem Adil (Away), Chris Akinrele (Away), Leon McKenzie-McKay (Resting Slight Injury), Harold Ofori (Resting Slight Injury), Chris Kriticos (Away), Zac Troullous (Working)

Sunday Morning Drop-Outs: Lexton Harrison (Car Broke Down), Martin Cruickshank (Illness), Rhys McKay (Unfit)

OPPONENTS' LINE-UP (4-4-1-1): 1. Martin Egan (GK); 8. Grant Landon (RB), 2. Patrick McGlogan (CB), 6. Doug Rice (CB), 15. Nigel Bagley (LB); -. Andrew Day (RM), 7. Tom Spencer (CM), 13. Jamie Cowan (CM), 14. Daron Osborne (LM); 9. Adam Jenkins (IF), 48. Gerry Lepkowski (CF...Captain)

Subs Used.: 12. Wayne Rose, 11. Derek Graham, 5. David McLoughlin, 4. Paul Blackwood

OPPONENTS' GOALSCORERS: Rice (83 Mins.)

MATCH REPORT

For this First Round match in the Barnet Sunday League's Junior Cup, we were the beneficiaries of a rather strange rule in that teams from the two Veterans Divisions are mixed in with all the Under-35's teams from Division One & Two, which is certainly something we have never come across before in other Leagues and neither had our opponents, who are also new to the Barnet League this season. Although Alexandra Park Vets had won five matches in a row in their division, we were always going to be able to give one or two players a rest in the knowledge that our superior pace and fitness would ultimately be the telling factor, so in came Daniel Cascoe and Andreas Kriticos to the starting line-up while Tom Croake, Hal Ozkan and Marley McKay were all able to have decent run-outs as Second Half substitutes. Indeed we almost took the lead after just 30 seconds when Ayo Matthews volleyed wide, but after that we were forced into a succession of sliced shots high and wide as our opponents not surprisingly knew what they were doing and defended deep. However, a quality move in the 29th minute finally saw us take the lead when Daniel Daley added to the rare header he scored with against Brotherhood the week before by scoring another one, this time diving low to head in Aiden Kavanagh's perfect cross to the far post. We then made it 2-0 in the 40th minute when Connor Kavanagh took a quick throw-in while Alexandra Park's players had half-stopped to complain that they had not been awarded a free-kick for a push in the back, and Ayo Matthews found himself clean through to blast the ball in front close range via the goalkeeper's gloves. It wasn't exactly a Goal Of The Season contender, but it was enough to give us a 2-0 Half-Time lead, and although we were facing a strong wind in the Second Half, we rarely looked in any trouble defensively until A.P. Vets defender Doug Rice scored direct from a corner in the 83rd minute by using the wind to his full advantage. We then had a few long throws, free-kicks and more corners to face in the last few minutes where we could have had a real problem bearing in mind the average height of Alexandra Park's players seemed to be about 6 foot 6, but we dealt with them all really well, while at the other end we could easily have snatched a third goal on the break in the 87th minute when Tom Croake raced clear, but keeper Martin Egan made one of a number of excellent saves by blocking the shot with his legs. Although we were expecting to win by a bigger margin coming into the game, 2-1 was good enough to see us through to the next round, and that was all that mattered in the end. The most impressive statistic for us is that in three Home games played so far this season, our opponents have still not managed a single (intentional) 'shot' on target, but we know our defence will be tested more severely in our next match against in-form GTF A.

LAURENCE HUGHES