

* - SUBSTITUTED

SUNDAY 28TH JANUARY 2001
 MERCURY WATFORD SUNDAY LEAGUE (DIVISION 2) MATCH AWAY TO BEEHIVE AT
 KICK OFF 10.35 AM. WORMLEY PLAYING FIELDS

SCORE: BEEHIVE 2 EDMONTON ROVERS 3 HALF TIME: 1-2

TEAM	MARKS OUT OF 10	SCORERS
1. GK Stavros ELIA	5	
2. RB Dave DIETMAN	7	
3. LB ¹⁰ Steve BEASLEY (CAPTAIN)	7	
4. RM ¹² Tony SPELLER	7½	72 mins,
5. SW ⁶ Stuart DORWARD	7	
6. CM ³ Robin PRYKE	8½	
7. CM ¹⁰ Russell BEEDEN	7	
8. CM ⁸ Marco ELLERKER	7	
9. CF ⁷ Paul ELLERKER	6½	13 mins,
10. CF ⁹ Derek DORWARD	6½	27 mins,
11. LM ⁵ Lee OSBORN	6½	
12. CF ¹⁷ Laxton HARRISON	6½	
14. LM ¹⁴ Gary ODELL	6	
15. RM ¹⁶ Dave BAGNALL	6	
16. —	—	
17. —	—	

EDMONTONS GOAL TIMES: DAVE PONCIA (38 SECS.), STEVE COKELL (89 mins)
 OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: L. HUGHES, T. HUGHES, K. DEAN, J. BEASLEY (W), C. BEEDEN
 CROWD: 16 REFEREE: DAVID HOCKNEY
 CLUB LINESMAN: RON BEASLEY REFEREE'S MARK (OUT OF 10): 7
 BOOKINGS: STUART COOLING (BEEHIVE) DISSENT (56 mins)
 SENDING OFFS: GARY COKELL (BEEHIVE) - PROFESSIONAL FOUL ON ODELL (36 mins)
 WEATHER CONDITIONS: DRY AND BUNNY, QUITE COLD. SLIGHT BREEZE ACROSS PITCH.
 STATE OF PITCH: FROZEN AT FIRST, THEN SOFT AND MUDDY, BUT FLAT (AND GRASS CUT)

Report: With Upshire Coach & Horses not playing because of a frozen and/or waterlogged pitch, we managed to regain 'top spot' in the Division 2 table thanks to this result, but with Beehive being arguably the weakest side in the Division (on paper), our narrow margin of victory regarding the actual scoreline makes it look like a poor performance.

However, that was undoubtedly the fault of just one player...our keeper Stavros Elia, who had one of his 'David James Nightmare' days, starting as early as the first minute when he came charging out of his area and allowed Beehive's Dave Poncia to lob into an empty net to give them a shock lead. However, that turned out to be their only shot of the match until the 89th minute when a 'bored' (and pissed?) Stavros suddenly dropped a harmless-looking 35-yard 'punted' free-kick from Beehive's Hoddesdon Town midfielder Steve Cokell over the line, this being the sort of error which suddenly brought back memories of such 'legendary' dodgy Rovers keepers of the past as John Radley, Steve Lewis, Charlie Dean & Harry Murfet!

That made it 3-2 and with Manager Trevor Hughes having brought on two inexperienced teenage substitutes for the last 10 minutes to give them a run-out, we suddenly panicked and we could easily have conceded an equaliser in Injury Time but Beehive's bizarrely-named substitute Adds Are missed the ball completely at the far post from a low hard cross with Stavros beaten!

With Beehive down to 10 men after an unlucky sending-off late in the First Half (for a 'professional foul' by defender Gary Cokell on Derek Dorward which was more of a 50/50 collision), it would have been an even more embarrassing 'capitulation' for us than when we threw away a 3-1 lead to crash out of the London F.A. Sunday Junior Cup earlier in the season.

In fact, we actually played a lot better when Beehive had eleven men on the pitch as we created numerous chances with some excellent control and passing on what was a much better playing surface than our home pitch at Hazelwood, even though it was a bit icy early on. However, even though Paul Ellerker & Derek Dorward managed to find the net at last after their recent goal drought, we still managed to squander too many chances throughout the course of the match and it was Tony Speller's rare goal (a delicate chip/lob which is currently the 'Video Clip of the Week' on the website) which proved decisive in the end to give us the victory we deserved.