

Sunday 20th May 2018

Inter-League Challenge Cup Semi-Final at Low Hall Sports Ground, Walthamstow

Kick-Off: 11.28.a.m. (One hour late due to rotting goalposts having to be replaced)

Result: BOSTON CELTICS 2 EDMONTON ROVERS 0 *Half-Time: 0-0*

SHIRT NUMBER	TEAM (4-1-4-1 / 4-2-3-1 56)			GOAL TIMES
1	GK	Grant BAKER		
4	RB	Lexton HARRISON		
16	CB	Richard HARRIS		
5	CB	Harold OFORI (Captain)		
14	LB	Ralph KATIKAZA		
12	CM Holding	Anees IKRAMULLAH		
17	RM	Nana OBENG		
10	CM	Nathan ALLEN	OFF 56	
11	CM	Daniel DALEY		
8	LM	Leon BERNARD		
9	CF	Ayo MATTHEWS		

SUBSTITUTES				
6	CM Holding	Ivan BASS	ON 56	
2	Not Used	Sam WOOLLEY		
3	Not Used	Oshade WATSON		
7	Not Used	James KELLY		

OWN GOALS Scored For Us:

MANAGER: Tony McKay **OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT:** L.Hughes, R.Bennett, L.McKenzie-McKay **ATTENDANCE:** 17
REFEREE: Nathan Buckle **ASSISTANT REFEREES:** Dwayne Malcolm & Joe Allen
BOOKINGS: None **SENDING-OFFS:** None
WEATHER CONDITIONS: Warm & Sunny. **STATE OF PITCH:** Dry & Hard. Small in width.

UNAVAILABILITY: (9 Players) Tyronne Petrie (Working), Aiden Kavanagh (University), Curtis Baalam (No Contact), Henry Akinsanmi (Away), Jordan Umpire (No Contact), Tom Croake (Other Commitments), Daniel Cascoe (Family Commitments), Vishal Patel (Other Commitments) **Sunday Morning Drop-Outs:** Jack Bangs (No Lift)

OPPONENTS' LINE-UP (4-4-2): 1. Aaron Cooper (GK); 6. Tom Slade (RB), 16. Marc Cranney (CB), 3. Peter Dutton (CB), 5. Matt Leung (LB); 15. Jack Slade (RM), 8. Ibo Kasisari (CM), 4. Michael Deeney (CM), 7. Berat Er (LM); 11. Bobby Casey (CF), 14. Ricky Price (CF) **Subs.** 11. Kevin Ho (On for Casey...51 Mins.), 9. Chris Grace (On for Er...75 Mins.)

OPPONENTS' GOALSCORERS: Er (58 Mins.), Price (69 Mins.)

MATCH REPORT

Having won 4-1 in the Quarter-Finals of this competition with a really good performance, we should have been looking forward to this match, but as it was played after a four-week break during which our players had 'done nothing', the warm & sunny weather more than likely put a number of them off and we ended up missing nine players in the end, six of whom would have been in the starting line-up had they been available. As has so often happened this season, we therefore had to field a side where numerous players had never met each other before, and indeed the inclusion of Ralph Katikaza and Nathan Allen for their Rovers debuts took our total number of players used this season to a ridiculous 60! However, with the exception of Nathan, who clearly hadn't played for a while, the fitness levels of our starting line-up were good and we were able to compete on level terms with our in-form Hackney & Leyton Sunday League Division One opponents in the First Half with both sides having a couple of decent chances each which were kept out by good saves from Grant Baker and his counterpart for Boston Celtics, Aaron Cooper. We certainly managed to get on top early in the Second Half though with the Celtics defence seemingly not as strong as those we have faced this season in Division One of the Barnet Sunday League, but poor finishing from Ayo Matthews, Nathan Allen & Daniel Daley cost us dear as they squandered several chances before Boston Celtics attacking midfielder Berat Er beat Grant Baker in the air to a long ball to head into an empty net after 58 minutes. After that, the arguing started amongst our players and it continued for the rest of the match as our opponents gained confidence from that goal and became more solid defensively. They then killed the game off as early as the 69th minute when Ricky Price made it 2-0 after running on to a mistimed defensive header from Richard Harris to beat Grant easily in a one-on-one, and after that we failed to muster a single worthwhile effort at goal, although neither did Boston Celtics as they just comfortably defended their lead with our players making little attempt to pass the ball quickly and accurately to each other or move into space to receive the ball. Once again, as in so many of our matches this season, it was that lack of teamwork which was the main problem, which was mainly caused by not having midweek training sessions and having so many players not showing any loyalty whatsoever. With only four players having played in over 75% of our matches this season, we were never really going to have a chance of winning a trophy this time.