

Sunday 14th September 2003

Mercury Waltham Sunday League Premier Division Match at Flamstead End Playing Fields, Cheshunt

BROXBOURNE RANGERS	3	EDMONTON ROVERS	3	HT 1-0
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Bonus (52 Seconds !),
N.O'Donoghue (60 mins.),
Reed (82 mins.)

Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay (48 mins.),
D.Dorward (56 mins.),
L.Harrison (84 mins.)

Broxbourne Rangers Line-Up: Daniel EVANS (GK); Danny BEAL, John CHILDS, Gary LITTLECHILD, Simon SEAGER; Stuart RINGE, Nick O'DONOGHUE, Scott O'DONOGHUE, Mark BOOST; John BONUS, Scott BANKS

Subs.: Andrew 'Biffer' REED, Graham RUDLING

Edmonton Rovers Line-Up (with Marks out of 10): Darryl JOHNSON (GK) (7); Robin PRYKE (7), Steve BEASLEY (7), Paul WOOLSTON (7), John BEASLEY (6½); Barry MATTHEWS (6½), Leon Mc,KENZIE-Mc,KAY (6½), Paul ELLERKER (7), Steve COKELL (7), Derek DORWARD (6½); Lexton HARRISON (7) **Subs:** Scott ROBERTSON (6), Eric IBEKWEM (6½)

Referee: Darren DEADMAN

Weather Conditions: Warm & Sunny

Attendance: 17



Marco Ellerker (Bad Back), Peter Sutton (Groin) and Stuart Dorward (Continuing Rib Injury) all declared themselves unfit to play during the week. In fact with five other First Team squad players missing for various other reasons, we had to field a real 'makeshift' starting line-up, although we didn't expect to go 1-0 down after just 52 seconds ! However, it was actually a very well-taken goal by Broxbourne Rangers forward John Bonus, who lobbed the ball over Darryl Johnson from close range after running onto a defence-splitting through ball which was more a case of good play by them rather than any obvious mistake from one of our players. Indeed Broxbourne Rangers started the game really well and

were looking much sharper than us from the start after having played the week before, although when they were awarded a penalty after just 5 minutes they were helped by the dreadful state of the pitch more than anything else as the ball bobbled up and inadvertently hit the arm of Barry Matthews, who obviously wasn't trying to *deliberately* handball it. Referee Deadman pointed to the spot though, but Darryl Johnson saved us from a probable heavy defeat by diving high to his right to parry Danny Beal's spot kick away.

We then had one or two other major 'scares' at the back early on but managed to get away with it thanks to some desperate defending which included Paul Woolston having to clear off the line on one occasion after a fumble by Darryl Johnson, but we gradually settled down as the First Half went on as Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay and Barry Matthews got used to the pace of the game on their First Team debuts and that saw a much more even contest in which both sides had a few half-chances before the interval.

Considering our shaky start though, we were glad to come off at Half-Time only 1-0 down, but we were eager to keep the momentum going and get back on the pitch for the start of the Second Half as soon as possible...as indeed were Broxbourne Rangers. However, Referee Deadman had wandered off 'half a mile away' during the interval to watch a bit of a Youth League match on another pitch and seemed to forget that he was supposed to be doing the Second Half of *our* match...despite all 22 players on the pitch trying to attract his attention ! Eventually he sauntered over though and got the Second Half under way and we managed to equalise just three minutes later when Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay finished confidently from close range after Lexton Harrison had headed on Paul Woolston's long 'Hertford Hoof'-style free-kick. We then had a really good spell with Leon and Barry Matthews getting increasingly confident and they were both involved in

Report: As usual for our first League match of the season we had numerous players unavailable, although on *this* occasion it was mainly due to injuries rather than having to attend barbecues, Weddings or Christenings with the wife/girlfriend (as has been the case in August & September for the last two or three seasons !). Thankfully though, we can now call up some younger Reserve Team players to fill in who don't have those sort of commitments, and for this match Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay, Lexton Harrison and Barry Matthews were all drafted into the squad when the likes of



the move that saw us go into a 2-1 lead in the 56th minute as Derek Dorward produced another good finish. However, Broxbourne Rangers were fielding what looked to be quite a strong side and they showed that they are again likely to finish in the top half of the Premier Division again this season with a quality goal in the 60th minute to make it 2-2 as Nick O'Donoghue headed in a superbly-driven left-wing cross at the far post. We then had to make an enforced substitution shortly afterwards as midfield holding player Paul Ellerker limped off with an ankle/foot injury and with his replacement Scott Robertson not being quite as mobile and Broxbourne Rangers bringing on dangerman Andrew 'Biffer' Reed, it looked as if the game would slip away from us again, especially when Reed scored his usual 'outside the area' goal against us in the 82nd minute to put Broxbourne Rangers 3-2 up, although it did look like a bit of a mis-hit on this occasion.

To our credit though, none of our players gave up and Steve Cokell and Lexton Harrison epitomised that just two minutes later when Cokell (who had now been pushed up front in a switch to a 4-4-2 formation) battled superbly for the ball just inside the area to set up Lexton for a fierce left-footed shot from an acute angle which sped past keeper Daniel Evans into a tiny gap in the top corner almost before he could move.

That gave us a well-deserved 3-3 draw in the end which was a fair result on the balance of play and a really good result for us considering the number of key players we were missing.