

* - SUBSTITUTED

SUNDAY 20th JANUARY 2002

MERCURY WALTHAM SUNDAY LEAGUE (DIVISION ONE) MATCH AWAY TO BROXBOURNE RANGERS

KICK OFF 10.30 AM. AT TEAMSTEAD END PLAYING FIELDS

SCORE: **BROXBOURNE RANGERS 2** **EDMONTON ROVERS 3** HALF-TIME: 1-2

Team	MARKS OUT OF 10	SCORERS
1. GK ¹ Stavros ELIA	6½	
2. RB ¹¹ Lee OSBORN	7	
3. LB ³ Steve BEASLEY (CAPTAIN)	7	
4. RM ⁶ Derek DORWARD	7	
5. SW ⁸ Tony SPEUER	7	
6. CM ² Robin PRYKE	7	
7. CM ¹⁵ Marco ELLERKER	7½	
8. CM ⁴ Stuart DORWARD	8	29 mins,
9. CF ⁵ Steve COKELL	7½	32 mins,
10. CM ¹⁰ Conor McGOVERN	7½	81 mins,
11. LM ⁷ John BEASLEY	7½	
12. RM ¹⁶ Paul REBAIRO	7	
14. - ¹⁸ Scott ROBERTSON	-	
15. -	-	
16. -	-	
17. -	-	

OPPOSITIONS GOAL TIMES: - STAVROS ELIA (OWN GOAL) (2 mins), SCOTT BANKS (69 mins),
 OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: - L. HUGHES, T. BEEDEN, R. BEEDEN, C. BEEDEN, P. ELLERKER (WS), R. BEASLEY
 GRASS: 33
 CLUB LINESMAN: TREVOR HUGHES
 REFEREE: PAUL CARTER
 REFEREE'S MARK (OUT OF 10): 10
 SENDING OFF: -
 WEATHER CONDITIONS: VERY STRONG BLUSTERY WIND FROM CORNER TO CORNER (PUNISH US IN 1ST HALF) + LIGHT RAIN
 STATE OF PITCH: BETTER THAN USUAL OVER THERE, BUT PUDDLES IN ONE GOAL MOUTH.

Report: After our demoralising defeat to Steeles in the London Junior Cup the previous week which had seemingly put paid to any chances of us winning a trophy this season, we bounced back in great style with a deserved victory against the most 'in-form' team in the Division. Indeed third-placed Broxbourne Rangers had won seven out of their last eight matches (including a 3-2 victory over Upshire Coach & Horses) and had been scoring an average of six goals a game during that run, but we overcame all that to get the three points and with leaders Upshire Coach & Horses losing to 4th placed Galley Hall it means we are now 'well in' the 'title race' along with the aforementioned other three teams.

With central defender Paul Woolston unavailable (watching Chelsea v. West Ham) and in-form midfielder Paul Ellerker also missing because of a fractured shoulder, we weren't exactly at full-strength for this match, but their replacements Lee Osborn and Conor McGovern played really well in unfamiliar right-back and central midfield positions respectively and it proved that we really have got a much-improved squad at the present time.

However, we didn't get the best of starts as Stavros Elia punched a wind-assisted corner into his own net after just two minutes, albeit under severe pressure from Broxbourne Rangers' beanpole defender Gary Murton, but we didn't panic and we started defending really well after that, although we were helped by Broxbourne Rangers' rather naive tactics of playing long balls with a gale-force wind behind them...this resulting in the ball running harmlessly out of play all the time before their forwards could react. In fact playing against the wind actually seemed to help us create chances and we had already missed a couple of good ones before Stuart Dorward finished off a brilliant move to equalise in the 29th minute and then Steve Cokell put us ahead three minutes later with a low shot into the bottom corner from the edge of the area. We therefore 'went in' 2-1 up at Half-Time and came out for the Second Half under instructions from Trevor Hughes *not* to play long balls with the wind behind us, but Broxbourne Rangers rather forced us into it as they predictably started the half a lot more determined and with Derek Dorward having to go off with a pulled muscle in his back after 54 minutes to be replaced by the more defensive Paul Rebaïro, we found ourselves being pegged back and the subsequent equaliser from forward Scott Banks in the 69th minute was well-deserved on the balance of play.

However, just as it looked as if we might start to crumble due to various players suffering knocks or strains as the game went on (as happened the week before), Conor McGovern came to the rescue with an excellent shot on the turn in the 81st minute which proved to be the winner....Conor then running over to the camera to do a Maradona World Cup '94-style celebration! Not that his screams of delight into the microphone came out because it wasn't switched on!!...this being the fault of a Broxbourne Rangers 'supporter'/'coach'/'dad' who wanted to have a chat about camera techniques before the game which put me off my usual sound-check! (We therefore have a completely 'silent' 90 minutes, so there'll be no 'funny comments or verbals for the Out-Takes' from *this* particular game!).