

Sunday 25th November 2007

Mercury Waltham Sunday League Division One Match at Hazelwood Sports Ground

EDMONTON ROVERS	2	CHASE SIDE OLD BOYS	4	HT 1-3
S.Dorward (33 mins.), McGovern (83 mins.)		Barnes (4, 41 (Pen.), 45 mins.), Loizou (67 mins.)		

EDMONTON ROVERS LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10): Ozel OZERMAN (GK) (5); Stuart DORWARD (7), Stuart BYHURST (7), Martin LOVEDAY (6½), Terry MOORE (6½); Nick VERTIGANS (6), Danny HAGAN (6), Clark WILLIAMS (6), Steve COKELL (6); Conor McGOVERN (7), Daniel DALEY (6) **Subs.:** Tony SPELLER (On for Vertigans 74 mins.) (6), Tem ADIL (On for Cokell 74 mins.) (6)

CHASE SIDE OLD BOYS LINE-UP: Lee BARTON (GK); Neil NEWMAN, Steve MURPHY, Mark BERGONZI, Mark LECOMBER; Alex NOVI, Simon BURNETT, Neil BARNES, Gary O'LOUGHLIN; Stelios LOIZOU, Jamie DIZENZO **Subs.:** Tim ULATOWSKI (On for Burnett 80 mins.)

Referee: Russell HOWES

Weather Conditions: Cloudy with
freezing cold wind

Attendance: 19

**Factual Report
(by Laurence
Hughes):**

Following our 4-0 defeat in the London F.A. Sunday Intermediate Cup the previous week when we were 'outclassed', we were looking forward to having a much easier time of it in this fixture against opponents who we had beaten fairly comfortably



in our last Division One match nearly a month ago. In fact Chase Side Old Boys were bottom of the table coming into this game having lost 8-0 at Hazelwood the week before to St. Mary's, and presumably because of that, at 10.15.a.m. they only had one player at the venue, namely skipper Neil Barnes. They therefore had to call off their Reserve Team's match at the last minute and get them all over to Hazelwood to play for their First Team, which sounded like good news for us, as their Reserves were bottom of Division Three and had not won a game for about three years !? In that respect, it was a bit like us turning up for a Premier Division match three or four years ago with the likes of (in order of best to worst ?) Scott Robertson, Ritchie Copues, Terry Deller, Mashood Burahee, Billy Burnham, Ali Ahmed, Jerome Harrison, Thomas Dell, Lee Osborn & others and expecting to lose 10-0...which invariably we did.

Chase Side Old Boys' 'Reserves' had other ideas though as they took the lead after just four minutes, although it was a bad mistake by goalkeeper Ozel Ozerman, whose scuffed clearance from a backpass gave Martin Loveday no chance of controlling the ball and it fell conveniently into Neil Barnes' path 40 yards from goal off Loveday's shins for a first-time chip straight back over Oz's head into an empty net.

With first-choice keeper Darryl Johnson out with a long-term shoulder injury and us fielding a makeshift defence with Alan Barnard and Paul Woolston (amongst others) unavailable, that early goal was obviously really worrying, and we looked a bit shaky at the back for quite a few minutes afterwards. However, there was nothing much wrong with our attacking play for most of the First Half except the lack of a decent finish, as numerous chances were fired straight at Chase Side keeper Lee Barton or not finished off in the 6-yard box from several quality low crosses. We finally managed to equalise in the 33rd minute though, when skipper Stuart Dorward (who was playing a now rare game due to work & family commitments) headed in a Steve Cokell corner at the far post, although as that was something like the 20th corner of the Half so far, we really

should have made one of them count before that.

Unfortunately though, it was another mistake by Ozel Ozerman in the 41st minute that gifted Chase Side the lead again, as another weak clearance from a back-pass put us under pressure and eventually resulted in Chase Side forward Jamie Dizenzo going clean through, only for Oz to bring him down in attempting to dive at his feet, thereby giving away a penalty which Neil Barnes easily dispatched for his second of the match.

Although that was annoying and frustrating for us, it got even worse right on the Half-Time whistle when Oz misjudged a mis-hit cross from Stelios Loizou and allowed it to bounce and spin over his head in comical fashion for Barnes to complete his hat-trick by heading into an empty net, so we therefore went off at Half-Time 3-1 down and with a real mountain to club, despite us being by far the better side in terms of possession and chances created.

Oz understandably seemed rather distraught as he trudged off at Half-Time and seemed to want to hide somewhere...I think he went and stood under the table I was using to video the match from, rather than join in the Half-Time team-talk (i.e. inquest). To be fair to him though, despite obvious calls from some of his team-mates to put Martin Loveday in goal for the Second Half and bring on Tony Speller to play in defence, Oz didn't hide once the Second Half got under way, and indeed he went on to make two or three half-decent saves and made no further



mistakes at all.

Unfortunately though, the damage had already been done, particularly with that third goal just before the break, as Chase Side looked a much more confident side in the Second Half, especially with an increasing

number of very vocal supporters turning up to cheer them on from the touchline. We still continued to create chances ourselves though, but the same pattern continued where we had no luck in front of goal whatsoever, whereas they took their chances. Indeed the game was killed off in the 67th minute when Loizou fired them into a 4-1 lead with a good turn and low shot into the bottom corner from the edge of the area.

That saw us change to a 3-5-2 formation shortly afterwards with Stuart Dorward moving into a central midfield position and Tony Speller & Tem Adil coming on to play as wing-backs, but it made no real difference and we only managed to pull one goal back in the time remaining when Conor McGovern fired into the roof of the net from close range in the 83rd minute after his initial shot had been blocked by keeper Barton.

In fact Chase Side actually squandered two or three chances in the last few minutes that would have made the final scoreline even more emphatic, while 'taking the piss' a bit in doing so, which was obviously annoying for us, but understandable given that they are 'never' in that sort of position normally. Indeed the final whistle was met with a loud cheer from their supporters, a mini pitch invasion, players hugging each other and jumping up and down...that sort of thing, which really rubbed it in that we had just been beaten by...Scott Robertson, Ritchie Copues, Terry Deller, Mashood Burahee, Billy Burnham, Ali Ahmed, Jerome Harrison, Thomas Dell & Lee Osborn. How embarrassing !

TREVOR HUGHES'S MANAGER'S REPORT

Following last week's London Cup defeat against very strong opposition we returned to league action against the bottom side Chaseside Old Boys who we had beaten 3-1 earlier this season. They had lost 8-0 last week so we were expecting a good result and we started well forcing a couple of early corners. However, the first time our goalkeeper Ozel Ozerman touched the ball after 4 minutes was a poor clearance which only reached centre half Martin Loveday who was unable to control the ball and Chaseside midfielder Neil Barnes was able to lob it back into the net with Oz stranded. This early setback didn't seem to affect us much as we dominated possession and forced numerous corners throughout the first half. Steve Cokell was causing

their keeper problems, particularly with the inswinging corners, and eventually Stuart Dorward equalised with a header from one of Steve's corners. Chaseside were defending very deep and we didn't get that many clear cut chances despite our possession. We then went 2-1 down after we were caught on the break after 41 minutes and a penalty was given as Oz dived at the Chaseside player's feet and he brought him down. In first half stoppage time a through ball was misjudged by Oz and it bounced over him leaving an easy header for a 3-1 deficit at half time. The attitude was positive at half time as we have come back several times already this season in the second half. Chaseside were slowing the game down and time wasting even at the beginning of the second half but we did create more chances that were not taken before Chaseside scored a fourth goal after 67 minutes which was a good turn and shot leaving Oz no chance. We pushed more men forward for the last 20 minutes and Conor McGovern pulled one goal back. On a positive note, Oz showed good character after his poor first half with some good saves as we left ourselves exposed at the back. The final score of 4-2 was very frustrating as we had played some good passing football going forward but were unable to convert our chances and were punished for errors at the back.