

Sunday 28th October 2007

Mercury Waltham Sunday League Division One Match at The Country Club, Cheshunt

CHASE SIDE OLD BOYS	1	EDMONTON ROVERS	3	HT 0-2
Smith (55 mins.)		Moore (6 mins.), S.Dorward (38 mins.), Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay (90 mins.)		

CHASE SIDE OLD BOYS' LINE-UP: Lee BARTON (GK); Neil NEWMAN, Geoff HEWITT, Richard KIRBY, Marc LECOMBER; Darren RAWLINGS, Jon GRANGE, Simon BURNETT, Colin SMITH; Stelios LOIZOU, Nathan BULLEN **Subs.:** Gary O'LOUGHLIN (On for Smith 57 mins.), Tim ULATOWSKI (On for Bullen 59 mins.), Nick HUBBARD (On for Hewitt 69 mins.)

EDMONTON ROVERS LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10): Darryl JOHNSON (GK) (7); Terry MOORE (7), Alan BARNARD (7), Martin LOVEDAY (7), Tony SPELLER (7); Stuart DORWARD (7), Danny HAGAN (7½), Clark WILLIAMS (7), Steve COKELL (6½); Nick VERTIGANS (6½), Daniel DALEY (6½) **Subs.:** Leon Mc,KENZIE-Mc,KAY (On for Vertigans 69 mins.) (7), Tem ADIL (Not Used), Tony KING (Not Used), Stuart BYHURST (Not Used), Ozel OZERMAN (GK) (Not Used)

Referee: Lee ADDISON

Weather Conditions: Wet & Windy

Attendance: 16

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

As far as our squad for this match was concerned, it was from one extreme to the other after the previous week's 'scraping up' of a 14 following mass drop-outs of players on a Saturday night/Sunday morning. Despite the clocks going



back an hour and the possibility of players turning up too early, thinking they had missed the meet, and then gone home again (yes, it has happened before in the past !), we had a full squad of 16 turn up for this game, which was very frustrating for Conor Mc,Govern, who had initially declared himself unavailable, but then announced that he could play at the last minute, only to find nobody dropping out to let him back in !

Manager Trevor Hughes therefore planned to play Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay and Daniel Daley as our forward partnership in Mc,Govern's absence (and with Derek Dorward missing as well because of work commitments), but Leon was unable to get a lift to the venue and decided to cycle there instead, as according to the maps it was a dead straight route down Theobalds Lane (past Cheshunt F.C.) from his house near Cheshunt Station. However, when he got past Cheshunt F.C., he found the dual carriageway A10 in front of him and no sign of a cycle path to the Country Club whatsoever. This meant he had to do a 20-minute ? detour somewhere before he managed to get to the venue at 10.25.a.m., and by that time Manager Hughes had no option but to name him as a substitute and put midfielder Nick Vertigans in up front instead. Leon wasn't the only one turning up late though, as various players were stuck in roadworks en route and didn't arrive until 10.15.a.m., meaning the 'proper warm-up' was just a quick 5-minute 5-a-side and nothing else. (I certainly didn't see any jogging or stretching going on ?).

With Leon and Conor having played well together the previous week and having scored all three of our goals between them, it was yet another example of us having to make numerous team changes week in week out, as in addition to those two, we also had Robin Pryke unavailable because of work commitments, while the return of Stuart Dorward, Clark Williams & Martin Loveday meant Tem Adil was left out.

We needed to be fielding a good side though, as a win was vital with us having lost two League matches already, while Chase Side Old Boys were fielding a stronger side than usual because their Reserve Team were without a fixture. In fact they were suffering from the same predicament we found ourselves in when we were relegated from the Premier Division two seasons ago, whereby they were struggling to find enough players to field two teams, leaving their Reserve Team bottom of their Division and getting 'thrashed' every week, and their First Team having to play matches with just a bare eleven or even less. That had seen them lose 9-0 to Larsens, 6-2 to Cheshunt (Sunday) and 2-1 to bottom of the table Division Four side Churchbury so far this season, so when Terry Moore opened the scoring for us after just 6 minutes with his first goal for the club...a tap-in on the goal-line after keeper Lee Barton had dropped a Steve Cokell corner...it seemed that we might be in for an easy game at last. However, wet and windy conditions (which never suit our style of play) put paid to that, and the game became more of a battle, although we still had the best of the possession in the First Half. After we had been generally too over-elaborate in front of goal for most of the half though, Stuart Dorward finally made it 2-0 in the 38th minute when he ran on to a deflected through ball from Danny Hagan to round keeper Barton and score, but Darryl Johnson did have to make a couple of good saves in the first 45 minutes and it certainly wasn't all one-way traffic.

As it turned out, the Second Half carried on in much the same vein, but we really should have



killed the game off in the 53rd minute when Clark Williams found himself clean through on goal with Chase Side's defenders all having given up on the half-way line, but he froze

when faced by keeper Barton on the edge of his area and didn't seem to know what to do...eventually passing the ball to an offside Daniel Daley when all it needed was a simple step-over or something to dummy the keeper himself.

Of course we were then made to pay for that two minutes later when Chase Side midfielder Colin Smith hit a first-time dipping half-volley into the top corner from about 35 yards with 'D.J.' off his line, and not surprisingly a spectacular goal like that really fired them up and put us on the back foot, especially as they were able to bring on three presumably good substitutes for a change.

We managed to ride the storm though, thanks to a couple more good saves (and some lucky escapes from fumbles) by Darryl, and when Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay was brought on for Nick Vertigans in the 69th minute, we didn't really look like losing after that as Leon's extra pace gave their defence a bit more to think about and it kept them on the back foot. It wasn't until the last minute of the match that Leon finally sealed the victory for us though, when after some good determined work by Daniel Daley, he fired a well-struck cross-shot into the far corner to make it 3-1 and give us our first victory for five matches.

Unfortunately, Manager Trevor Hughes decided not to give any of his other substitutes a run-out as it would have only been for time-wasting purposes anyway, something which he never seems too keen on, so they were probably not happy standing in the rain doing nothing, but it was the week before that they were needed and it's sod's law that as soon as we have five substitutes it rains !

TREVOR HUGHES'S MANAGER'S REPORT

We had a squad of 16 for Sunday's league game against Chaseside Old Boys and there were no late cry offs to allow Conor McGovern to come into the squad when he became available on Saturday. The only problem was Leon McKenzie-McKay arriving late as he cycled to the ground along the A10 from Cheshunt thinking the ground was only 5 minutes from his home whereas it took him a lot longer. Nick Vertigans came into the starting line up to partner Daniel Daley up front. We took the lead after just 6 minutes from an unlikely source in Terry Moore. His first goal for the club was described by Terry as a left foot volley which is correct but it was from a distance of about one foot after the keeper had dropped Steve Cokell's corner. We struggled to play our best football in difficult windy and rainy conditions but still looked the better side and Stuart Dorward scored our second on 38 minutes after a good through ball by Danny Hagan. We started the second half confident of scoring a third goal to kill the game and when Clark Williams ran clear with Daniel Daley to his left a goal seemed inevitable. However, Clark showed why he is a defensive midfielder as he seemed to freeze confronted by the Chaseside keeper. He delayed so long that he ended up passing to Daniel who had now overtaken him and gone offside. Just two minutes later Chaseside got back into the game with a speculative effort from 30 yards flying into the top corner. We continued to press for a third goal but I was always worried about an equaliser on the break. We finally scored in injury time when substitute Leon McKenzie-McKay finished well from the edge of the area to give us a 3-1 win.

I would like to give a mention to our unused subs, Ozel Ozerman, who ran the line, Tem Adil, Tony King and Stuart Byhurst. I appreciate it is difficult when you don't get a game but we will only be successful if we have a large squad and I hope that everyone will get a chance as the season goes on.