

Sunday 18th April 2010 (SECOND MATCH OF DOUBLE-HEADER...30 Minutes each way)

Waltham Sunday League Division One Match at Hazelwood Sports Ground

CHESHUNT CORINTHIANS	8	EDMONTON ROVERS	1	HT 3-1
Harding (12 mins.), Stonehouse (16 mins.), Wingrove (21, 41 mins.), Bliss (47 mins.), Jones (48, 57 mins.), Oughton (49 mins)		T.Brown (Pen.) (15 mins.)		

CHESHUNT CORINTHIANS LINE-UP: Matt GUINCHARD (GK); Tim FRIEND, Terry BLISS, Jamie BARRY, Scott DEAMER; Chris JONES, Mike STONEHOUSE, Andy PORTER, Billy WINGROVE; Dan GILDERSLEVE, Dean HARDING **Subs.:** Michael DEANE, Dan OUGHTON, Huseyin TASAN

EDMONTON ROVERS LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10): Darryl JOHNSON (GK) (5½); Terry MOORE (6½); Alan BARNARD (7); Jim ARROWSMITH (5½); Tony KING (5½); Rob BROWN (6½); Terry BROWN (5½); Kris SPYROU (6); Vernon 'Kizza' NXUMALO (6); Daniel DALEY (5); Steve COKELL (6) **Sub.:** Gary COKELL (5½) (On at H-T for Daley)

Referee: Ian ANDREWS

Weather Conditions: Sunny & Warm

Attendance: 21

Report (by Laurence Hughes): For this second game, Jim Arrowsmith had arrived after his Church commitments, but not surprisingly there was no sign of anybody else...no doubt in case they ended up as a substitute or Club Lino! With Gary Cokell volunteering to come off after the first game so that he could go and check on his daughter(s) in the Hazelwood playground, Jim therefore slotted into the back three and Vernon 'Kizza' Nxumalo continued in the attacking midfield role with Kris Spyrou on the left. However, at this level against numerous ex-Semi-Pro players from Saturday football, Jim does not enjoy playing in a back three and it was very much an enforced role, when on Saturdays in the much-inferior Church League, he plays in midfield. With Cheshunt Corinthians fielding a supposedly stronger side for the second match (although in truth it was hard to tell the difference as all 20 of them were quality players), they therefore looked a lot sharper this time, whereas several of our players needed a breather. There was no chance of the Cameraman coming back on though, as my legs and back had seized up totally having climbed up onto my platform to film the Second Half of the first match without having a 'Barney-style warm-down'!

It took Cheshunt Corinthians 12 minutes to take the lead though, when ex-Ryman League player Dean Harding tapped in a low cross which Darryl Johnson apparently should have cut out according to Manager/Lino Hughes, but then just two minutes later we were awarded a penalty when Kris Spyrou was tripped in the area by defender Jamie Barry after a good spell of pressure. Terry Brown then confidently thumped the spot kick high past keeper Guinchard to make it 1-1, but we then threw all that good work away just a minute later by letting in a really bad goal from a corner when Jim Arrowsmith called to head it away but missed the ball completely, and with the rest of our players not attacking the ball because of Jim's call, it went in off a combination of Alan Barnard's chest and Cheshunt Corinthians midfielder Mike Stonehouse's shoulder to put them 2-1 up. It was then that some 'groundhoppers' turned up to see us give all these well-known Semi-Pro players a good game...thanks to my ramblings on [this Sunday League Trainspotters thread](#) on a Non-League Forum, but typically, that coincided with us really crumbling because of tiredness and I was left with egg on my face, although Billy Wingrove's goal that put Corinthians 3-1 up in the 21st minute was a bit lucky as the ball deflected straight into his path right in front of goal.

We managed to keep the score down to just 3-1 at Half-Time, but with there being no chance of us getting back into the match, Daniel Daley then decided to go home as Gary Cokell was ready to come back on as a second match Second Half substitute for him...Daley being really annoyed before the game at players dropping out on the morning of the match, and therefore threatening to join McKenzie Rangers (again) next season...as if they don't have the same problems! (They do, according to their Secretary, who I spoke to during the week). Unfortunately for us, Cheshunt Corinthians were one of several teams in Division One this season who have quality players turning up every week to battle for a place in the side instead of babysitting, working, entertaining clients in corporate boxes, playing golf, going for weekend piss-ups up North, going shopping with the WAG or whatever, so they were able to bring on three fresh players to our one for the Second Half and that made all the difference. Our keeper Darryl Johnson had already been a lot busier in this match than he had been in the first game when Billy Wingrove made it 4-1 in the 41st minute with a long-range screamer, then big defender Terry Bliss made it 5-1 in the 47th minute when he powered in a header from a corner...our zonal marking being totally ineffective on this occasion because we had no outfield players playing whatsoever who were over 6 feet tall.

When Corinthians made it 7-1 with two goals in a minute though, courtesy of Chris Jones and Dan Oughton with quality finishes, there were some bad accusations flying around (mainly from Alan Barnard and Rob Brown) of our players giving up and not trying, although through the viewfinder it looked like good play by them and just tiredness on our part, something which Manager Hughes seemed to agree with. Jones then made it 8-1 in the 57th minute after blocking Kris Spyrou's attempted clearance and finding himself clean through, and in the end we were lucky it was not a 90-minute match as we may well have found our [heaviest-ever defeat](#) of 29-0 broken!!! 8-1 was embarrassing enough though, but at least Cheshunt Corinthians' players didn't 'take the piss' in front of the camera every time they scored, unlike one or two other teams who have given us a pasting like that this season.

Our biggest problem continues to be players dropping out late on a Saturday night or on the morning of the match without realising that four or five others have had the same idea. They then text me on a Sunday afternoon to find out the score...in this case, and to their credit, Stuart, Smithy, Jacko and Loveday...and they are then 'shocked' to hear that we only had 9 men and that Gary Cokell and myself had to come out of retirement to take their place.

With even more players making themselves unavailable for our proposed last game of the season against Enfield Royals, this may well be our last game of the season already and from our 39 players registered this season, a big cull is probably needed for next season! There really is no point in having 25 or so of those players signed up any more.

TREVOR HUGHES'S MANAGER'S REPORT

For the second match we were bolstered by the arrival of Jim Arrowsmith but our opponents were able to make nine changes including Billy Wingrove who scored 4 against us in the cup match. However, we started quite competitively until we conceded a soft goal after 12 minutes when a low cross was touched past Darryl. Kris Spyrou was tripped in the box and Terry Brown despatched the penalty to give us another equaliser but we conceded a rare goal from a corner just a minute later to go behind again. The crucial two goal lead came when a deflected shot fell straight to Wingrove for an easy finish and we trailed 3-1 at half time. The last half an hour was always going to need a great effort with just one substitute available and we conceded 4 times in an eight minute spell although they were all excellent goals. Fortunately, they only scored one more late goal but 8-1 was still an embarrassing scoreline.