

Sunday 13th April 2008

Mercury Waltham Sunday League Division One Match at Hazelwood Sports Ground

EDMONTON ROVERS	4	CHESHUNT (SUNDAY)	3	HT 0-1
Nxumalo (50, 66 mins.), Green (57 mins.), Daley (63 mins.)		Rose (13 mins.), Spiteri (52 mins.), Somerville (85 mins.)		

EDMONTON ROVERS LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10): Ozel OZERMAN (GK) (6); Terry MOORE (6½), Scott JENKINS (6½), Paul WOOLSTON (6½), Martin LOVEDAY (6½); Derek DORWARD (6), Tem ADIL (6½), Clark WILLIAMS (6), Tony KING (6½); Danny GREEN (7½), Daniel DALEY (7) **Subs.:** Vernon 'Kizza' NXUMALO (On for D.Dorward 24 mins.) (8), Stuart DORWARD (On for Williams 74 mins.) (6), Kris SPYROU (On for King 74 mins.) (6), Darryl JOHNSON (GK) (Not Used)

CHESHUNT (SUNDAY)'S LINE-UP: Mike FIELD (GK); Jamie HARRISON, Tony WEBB, Andy AGAPIAU, Justin DICKINSON; Danny GAYLER, Andy HUNT, Marlon BORELAND, Sam ROSE; Neil SOMERVILLE, Adam PARLOUR **Subs.:** Chris SPITERI, Danny HOLDING, Shaun BORELAND, Marlon DAVIDSON (Not Used), Adam MARSH (GK) (Not Used)

Referee: Andy SMITH

Weather Conditions: Sunny with showers

Attendance: 14

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

With the previous two weeks seeing a non-fulfilment by us and then a game called off at the last minute because of snow when we had a full squad of 16 available, there was always the possibility of players preferring to do other things for this particular Sunday in case it



turned out to be another waste of time, and indeed we had nine first-choice players unavailable in the end with Rob Brown, Tony Speller and Nick Vertigans all having family commitments when we were initially expecting them to play. The other six were Conor McGovern, Danny Hagan, Steve Cokell and Stuart Dorward, who were all still out injured (although Stuart did volunteer to be a substitute and play through the pain

barrier if necessary), while Alan Barnard and Stuart Byhurst were both running in the London Marathon. For the record, Barney managed just under 3 hours 45 minutes, but Byhurst was almost an hour behind in 4 hours, 39 minutes !

When our mid-table opponents Cheshunt (Sunday) turned up with a full-strength side including five good substitutes then, it looked like we were in for another hiding, having lost 5-0 to another mid-table side Uniques in our last match. Although we actually managed to find a squad of 15 ourselves though, thanks to injured goalkeeper Darryl Johnson volunteering to be named as a substitute in case of any further emergencies, it was another one of those situations where we had so many new or 'occasional' players playing that our teamwork was bound to be very rusty, especially early on, while Manager Trevor Hughes decided to revert to a 4-4-2 formation for the first time in several matches, which may also have confused a few players who had just got used to a 3-4-1-2. That saw Cheshunt (Sunday) camped in our half for the first 20 minutes or so with a stiff breeze behind them in attacking the 'cowshed' end, but poor finishing saw them squander two or three good chances except for a free-kick that we needlessly presented them with just outside the area in the 13th minute which their regular Ryman League Division One player Sam Rose predictably blasted straight into the top corner once he saw the diminutive Ozel Ozerman in goal.

At that stage, it looked like we were heading for an inevitable defeat, especially when Derek Dorward was carried off with what turned out to be a broken ankle in the 24th minute, but our teamwork improved as the half went on and we managed to tighten up at the back to some extent, with Oz not having any other serious shots on target to deal with. Unfortunately though, we didn't manage a single shot at goal ourselves in the First Half, but the Second Half was a very different story, especially after Del's replacement Vernon 'Kizza' Nxumalo beat Cheshunt keeper Mike Field to a long clearance from Martin Loveday five minutes after the break to run the ball into an empty net and make it 1-1. However, that didn't last for long as Cheshunt regained the lead just two minutes later when Paul Woolston was outpaced at the back and their substitute



Chris Spiteri found himself unmarked at the far post to make it 2-1 with a diving header. By that stage though, it had already become clear to us that keeper Field and his defenders were even more erratic and/or slower than ours, and Danny Green was able to equalise in the 57th minute with a deflected low shot,

and we then had an excellent spell after that when Daniel Daley put us 3-2 up with a Goal Of The Season contender (apparently...as he hit the ball so hard I lost it in the viewfinder and it was already nestling in the back of the net by the time I panned the camera round), and then 'Kizza' made it 4-2 with a superbly placed free-kick through a crowd of players into the bottom corner in the 66th minute.

We then brought on Kris Spyrou and skipper Stuart Dorward for Clark Williams and Tony King in the 74th minute and both sides had chances after that, but Cheshunt scored from one of theirs in the 85th minute when forward Neil Somerville beat Ozel Ozerman to a long ball to make it 4-3, but we defended well in the last five minutes and managed to hang on for the three points that should be good enough to see us avoid relegation, especially as Mc,Kenzie Rangers and Chase Side Old Boys both lost.

With so many regulars missing then, this was a really encouraging result, although we definitely rode our luck at times and on this occasion it was better finishing by us that was the difference between the two sides.

TREVOR HUGHES'S MANAGER'S REPORT

We were still missing nine regular players through injury and unavailability including Alan Barnard and Stuart Byhurst who were running in the London Marathon. Nevertheless, we managed to find a squad of 15 with injured goalkeeper Darryl Johnson and captain Stuart Dorward among the substitutes. Our opponents, Cheshunt (Sunday) appeared to have a full strength side themselves with four substitutes and they looked to be the better side in the early stages. We went behind after 13 minutes when a direct free kick was rifled in from 30 yards. Derek Dorward then became our latest player to suffer an injury which will see him out for the rest of the season with an ankle injury which saw him carried off the pitch and taken to hospital. Fortunately, we had good substitutes and Vernon 'Kizza' Nxumalo was able to replace him in right midfield. Whilst we defended well for the rest of the first half we failed to create many chances but Kizza scored our equaliser five minutes into the second half when he beat the goalkeeper to a through ball for an easy tap in. However, only a couple of minutes later we fell asleep at the back to allow Cheshunt's substitute an unmarked header at the far post to put us behind again. This time we got a quick equaliser with a good move involving Kizza, Tony King and Daniel Daley before Dan Green's good finish. Kizza then set up Daniel Daley who put us into the lead with a screamer into the top corner from the edge of the area. Shortly afterwards, Kizza sealed the man of the match award by curling in a free kick for his second goal to put us 4-2 ahead. Cheshunt pulled one back with 5 minutes to go but we held on comfortably for an important three points which should see us avoid relegation.