

Sunday 9th September 2007

Mercury Waltham Sunday League Division One Match at Cheshunt F.C. (Back Pitch)

CHESHUNT (SUNDAY)

4

EDMONTON ROVERS

5

HT 2-0

Vandepeer (8, 45, 76 mins.),
Rose (55 mins.)

McGovern (46, 69 mins.),
D.Dorward (82 mins.),
S.Cokell (85 mins.),
Daley (88 mins.)

CHESHUNT (SUNDAY)'S LINE-UP: Mike FIELD; Scott PURCELL, Tony WEBB, Danny GAYLER, Sam ROSE; Chris SPITERI, Terry GRITTON, John BLISS, Sammy VANDEPEER; Neil SOMERVILLE, Shaun BORELAND **Subs.:** Adam PARLOUR, Jamie HARRISON, Cecil WILLIAMS

EDMONTON ROVERS LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10): Simon JACKSON (GK) (7); Robin PRYKE (6), Alan BARNARD (7½), Paul WOOLSTON (7), Terry MOORE (6½); Leon McKENZIE-McKAY (7), Danny HAGAN (6½), Clark WILLIAMS (6½), Tony KING (6½); Conor McGOVERN (7½), Daniel DALEY (7) **Subs.:** Steve COKELL (On for King 70 mins.) (7), Derek DORWARD (On for Williams 77 mins.) (7), Tem ADIL (Not Used), Foysol AHMED (Not Used), Ozel OZERMAN (Not Used)

Referee: Gary BAILEY

Weather Conditions: Warm & Sunny

Attendance: 34

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

Although we had beaten an under-strength Cheshunt (Sunday) side 3-1 in our final match last season, we knew this game would be a lot more difficult as they had strengthened



their squad during the Summer, having played in the same 7-a-side League as us. Indeed they also had the benefit of a League game on the 2nd September (the first day of the season) while most of our players were earning brownie points from the missus or their employers (in preference to attending a training session). With Chase Side Old Boys turning up with only 10 men for that match, Cheshunt (Sunday) were therefore able to chalk up a confidence-boosting 6-2 win, while those of our players who actually bothered to attend training invariably ended up inadvertently injuring each other or 'doing their back in'. Nevertheless, we only had one player (instead of the usual 5 or 6) drop out of the named 16-man squad for this match, that being Tony Speller with a 'touch of the runs' on the morning of the

match, and in fact the only player we had missing who would more or less be guaranteed a place in the starting line-up was skipper Stuart Dorward, who was still up in his native Scotland having watched them beat Lithuania the day before.

Manager Trevor Hughes did actually pick the starting line-up for this fixture before he went away for another one of his regular trips to his home in Cyprus, and although 'Director Of Football' and stand-in Manager for the day Russell Beeden *could* have made changes on the basis of non-payment of subs by two or three players, he decided *not* to do mass alterations at the last minute which would only have complicated things. That meant Steve Cokell, Tem Adil and Derek Dorward had to be content with places 'on the bench' when they were just as worthy of a place in the starting line-up as anybody else on their performances during the Summer and in Pre-Season, but on the other hand it was really refreshing for us to now have such a good squad of players with no real 'weak links' at all (apart from the usual inability to field a settled side because of work, family & social commitments).

As it happened, Del didn't turn up until after the kick-off anyway for some reason (which was presumably explained to 'Tarby' ?), while Ozel Ozerman nearly got a game in goal at the last minute when Simon Jackson turned up at the ground and then suddenly realised he had forgotten his kit ! Fortunately 'Jacko' managed to get back home and then back to Cheshunt well in time for the kick-off, and Oz (to his credit...and a £5.00 credit off his subs) volunteered to act as Club Linesman for the whole match...and ended up doing an excellent job as it happened !

On a bone-hard and dry but well-grassed surface, the game started off at the predictable furious pace with both sides looking to attack right from the off, but Cheshunt (Sunday) took the lead after just 8 minutes with their first shot of the match after Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay overhit a corner-kick to the far post which allowed them to break quickly, resulting in midfielder Sammy Vandeppeer firing a shot into the bottom corner from the edge of the area after Clark Williams (and others) had failed to clear the danger.

However, we fought back well after that and had by far the better chances in the First Half with Conor Mc,Govern and Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay both squandering good opportunities, while Cheshunt keeper Mike Field made two excellent saves from Daniel Daley and another one from a Paul Woolston free-kick 'special'. Of course having done that, we then went and conceded yet another goal right on the Half-Time whistle, something that we seemed to specialise in last season. This time it came from a good quick move in midfield, but Robin Pryke then missed a chance to clear the ball and again Sammy Vandeppeer nipped in to finish clinically from close range and leave us 2-0 down at the break.



Our Half-Time team-talk seemed to be quite positive though, even though I wasn't really listening to it as I was concentrating on changing tapes and getting the settings right on my new camera

for what was a first-time experiment of filming in widescreen high-definition for the whole of this match !

I don't think 'Tarby' ordered Conor Mc,Govern to try a shot from the byline in the first minute after the break to get us back into the match straight away though, but that's what happened to make it 2-1, although it was obviously a sliced cross that gave keeper Field no chance.

Unfortunately though, we continued to miss more good chances after that, and we paid the price in the 55th minute when Cheshunt left-back Sam Rose curled in an unstoppable free-kick to put his side 3-1 up.

We then gradually started to go through the motions a bit after that and 'Tarby' seemed to be leaving it a bit too late to make a couple of much-needed substitutions, but after Conor Mc,Govern suddenly pulled a goal back against the run of play in the 69th minute to make it 3-2 with a good finish from Daniel Daley's through ball, the Caretaker Manager finally brought on Steve Cokell for Tony King immediately afterwards, King having done well defensively but not so well going forward because Cheshunt had all their better players in midfield. However, as we threw men forward looking for an equaliser we were then punished on the break just seven minutes later when Sammy Vandepeer completed his hat-trick with an excellent first-time chip from Danny Gayler's left-wing cross to make it 4-2 and seemingly kill off the game.

We didn't give up though, and 'Tarby' immediately brought on the attack-minded Derek Dorward to replace midfield holding player Clark Williams and push Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay into a free role just behind the front two...officially, although he had more or less been playing up front for most of the game anyway !?

With Cheshunt having looked dodgy at the back all game, it was well worth a go and it eventually paid off as we scored three goals in the space of six minutes with an amazing comeback. Firstly, Del buried an excellent first-time low shot into the far bottom corner from Steve Cokell's perfect cross in the 82nd minute to make it 4-3, then Cokell scored a rare goal himself three minutes later to make it 4-4 with a lob in off the post from the edge of the area after running onto Simon Jackson's long drop kick, and then Daniel Daley made up for some poor finishing and various needless run-ins with Cheshunt defenders in the match thus far by firing low into the bottom corner from Conor Mc,Govern's through ball in the 86th minute to give us a memorable 5-4 victory.

Having lost 7-0 in our first League match last season, this really was a pleasant surprise, especially for Manager Trevor Hughes, who was heard spluttering in disbelief when 'Tarby' phoned him in Cyprus shortly after the final whistle. Trev was trying to learn how to swim in his villa's heated pool at the time. Good job he was wearing water wings !?

[Click Here for Cheshunt \(Sunday\)'s website.](#)