

Sunday 4th December 2016

Barnet Sunday League Division Two Match at the Edmonton Sports & Social Club (Pitch Two)

Kick-Off: 10.32.a.m.

Result: EDMONTON ROVERS.....3 CHURCHBURY.....2 **Half-Time:** 3-0

SHIRT NUMBER	TEAM (4-2-3-1 / 4-3-3 16)		GOAL TIMES
1	GK	Stephen ROUSSETY	
2	RB	Lexton HARRISON	
12	CB	Tyronne PETRIE	
17	CB	Harold OFORI	24 Mins.
14	LB/CM 16	Curtis BAALAM	
6	CM Holding/CM 16	Khaheem McKENZIE	OFF 67
19	CM Holding/CM16	Connor KAVANAGH	
8	RM/RCF16/LCFHT	Leon McKENZIE-McKAY (Captain)	
11	ACM/LCF16/RCFHT	Daniel DALEY	
3	LM/LB16	Aiden KAVANAGH	
9	CF	Ayo MATTHEWS	15, 21 Mins.
SUBSTITUTES			
7	CM	Tem ADIL	ON 67
16	Not Used	Daniel CASCOE	
10	Not Used	Andreas KRITICOS	
15	Not Used	Jack BANGS	
5	Not Used	Chris KRITICOS	

OWN GOALS Scored For Us:

MANAGER: Tony McKay

CLUB LINESMAN: Bob Cleary

ATTENDANCE: 39

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: L.Hughes, H.Ozkan, C.Lue, M.McKay, B.Ankrah, R.Johnson

REFEREE: Bob Salter

BOOKINGS: None

SENDING-OFFS: None

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Sunny, but Cold

STATE OF PITCH: Perfect

UNAVAILABILITY: (3 Players) Danny Hagan (Injured)

Sunday Morning Drop-Outs: Ivan Bass (Babysitting), Grant Baker (GK) ('No Lift'), Rod Bennett (Assistant Manager) (Working)

OPPONENTS' LINE-UP (4-1-4-1): 1. Stuart Taylor (GK...Captain); 2. Robert Convey (RB), 5. Mathew Milsom (CB), 6. Eamoin Meaney (CB), 3. Luigi Ruggiero (LB); 4. Chris Brett (CM Holding); 7. Jamie Stevens (RM), 8. Tom Dean (CM), 9. Neil Adams (CM), 11. George Ellinas (LM); 10. Steve Seymour (CF)

Subs Used: 1. Mal Saphiris (GK) (On at HT for Taylor), 12. Rory Myles, 18. Jason Brewer, 16. Jack Lawes

OPPONENTS' GOALSCORERS: Dean (71 Mins.), Stevens (79 Mins.)

MATCH REPORT

Although we had already beaten Churchbury twice, once in the League and once in the League Senior Cup, this was arguably the most crucial match of our three meetings as we were on our Home pitch where we have been invincible so far this season, and we knew we would overtake them into second place in the table if we managed to win. We did have a blow before the kick-off when central defender Ivan Bass had to drop out due to babysitting duties, while Assistant Manager Rod Bennett also got called in to work at the last minute, but we were still fielding a strong squad with even last season's top goalscorer Jack Bangs suddenly re-appearing to be named as one of our substitutes, so that gave everybody a boost. We knew that keeping our discipline was vitally important after the first two matches had both descended into 'verbal warfare', and we managed to concentrate superbly in the First Half of this match by taking a 3-0 Half-Time lead when Ayo Matthews firstly put us 1-0 up in the 15th minute after running onto Aiden Kavanagh's perfect through ball, then he did the same again six minutes later to make it 2-0 after Leon McKenzie-McKay had sent him clean through with another slide-rule pass. Defender Harold Ofori then notched our third in the 24th minute by scrambling the ball in from a corner after the sort of comical goalmouth scramble that gives Sunday League football a bad name, and we could have killed off Churchbury even further right on the Half-Time whistle but Daniel Daley slammed a shot against the underside of the crossbar from just 8 yards. Churchbury did have their chances too, but we fully deserved our lead. Not surprisingly, the Second Half saw Churchbury come out a lot more fired up, but again we missed the chance to kill them off on the break in the 57th minute when Ayo Matthews toe-poked the ball wide in a one-on-one with ex-Rovers keeper Mal Saphiris, who had come on as a Half-Time substitute for some reason. With 71 minutes gone though and Churchbury starting to get frustrated that we had been defending well, keeper Stephen Roussety suddenly lost concentration and allowed a speculative long-range shot from midfielder Tom Dean to slip through his fingers and into the roof of the net to make it 3-1, which then meant it was back to the wall time for us for the rest of the match. As in the first League match against Churchbury back in September though when we also started to throw away a 3-0 lead against them, we hung on again by only conceding one more, this time in the 79th minute when the League's leading scorer Jamie Stevens tapped in from close range to make it 3-2 after a scramble in the area. Referee Bob Salter then did us a favour by only playing 30 seconds Injury Time for some reason when there should have been at least a couple of minutes, but we deserved the three points in the end as we did create more clear-cut chances in the game overall.

LAURENCE HUGHES