

Sunday 14th December 2003

Mercury Waltham Sunday League (Division Four) Match at Albany Park (Pitch 6)

EDMONTON ROVERS RESERVES	1	DYSONS ROVERS	0	HT 0-0
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Sutton (90 mins.)

Edmonton Rovers Reserves Line-Up (with Marks out of 10): Simon JACKSON (GK) (7); Lee OSBORN (7½), Matt STEELL (8), Billy BURNHAM (7), Terry DELLER (7½); Peter SUTTON (7), Paul REBAIRO (6½), Barry MATTHEWS (6), Jerome HARRISON (6); Lexton HARRISON (7), Myron Mc,KAY (6½) **Subs.:** Leon Mc,KENZIE-Mc,KAY (6½), Brian KAMUTEKU (6½), Sheriff ALAGAN (6)

Dyson's Rovers Line-Up: Dave BARKER (GK); Simon FOORD, Barry LEVERSUCH, Anthony ROBINSON; Andy HASTINGS, Scott GRIFFIN, John ERRATT, Robert BALMER, Alan BAZELL; Jamie DAY, Chas ROBERTS **Subs.:** None

Referee: Lawrence HARVEY

Weather Conditions: Sunny, but Very Windy

Attendance: 13



Report: With our First Team not having a match arranged and

our 'nightmare' unavailability problems of the past few months now having cleared, we were finally able to field the sort of line-up we had always intended for the Reserve Team when they were formed at the the start of the season...namely a good mixture of former First Team players who are not good enough to play regularly in the Premier Division, new players to the club this season, and any current First Team players who are returning from long-term injuries and need to regain their fitness. Peter Sutton was therefore included under the last of those three categories for what was his first game since the Pre-Season Friendlies in August, while Lexton Harrison and Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay did not have to be called up to the First Team at the last minute this time...as has happened on numerous occasions so far this season due to various First Team substitutes coming up with some feeble excuses for missing matches and thereby weakening the Reserves to the extent that Laurence Hughes, Shamus Mc,Govern, Manager Mark Howley and various other badly unfit players had been having to play far more often than they should have been.

Of course, due to our previous poor results when our Reserves have had to give our First Team three or four players, Dysons Rovers not surprisingly complained that we were fielding 'half our First Team' for this match when we were doing nothing of the sort. In fact, because so many First Team players had been out injured so far this season or missing matches for *other* reasons, we actually would have been within the League's complex First/Reserve Team eligibility rules to have also included the likes of Robin Pryke, Marco Ellerker, Chris 'Nugget' Beeden, Steve Cokell, Tony Speller, Chidi Ibekwem and Steve Beasley had they all been available this weekend !!!

However, although other clubs in the League would have done that, we preferred to give genuine Reserve Team players a chance to show watching First Team Manager Trevor 'Sven Goran Eriksson' Hughes what they could do and it was good to see one or two of them play well enough in difficult windy conditions to warrant a call-up to the First Team squad at some stage this season. Trevor was also hoping to see new signing Lee Bazzoni in action, Lee being a former team-mate of Chelsea & England star Joe Cole in his Youth League days, but a hangover after a night out celebrating his birthday before this match put paid to that, while Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay also had to be omitted from the starting line-up after failing to arrange a lift and turning up just five minutes before kick-off. Apart from that, the discipline regarding turning up on time, paying their Subs and informing Manager Mark Howley of unavailability for this match was a vast improvement on what had been going on *earlier* in the season and that obviously helped us in this match.

In fact we almost got off to a great start after just six minutes when Peter Sutton was brought down in the area for an obvious penalty, but skipper Paul Rebaire missed his second spot kick in succession after seemingly getting the 'yips' in trying to do his usual John Aldridge 'stop-start'-style attempt and sending a weak side-footed 'back-pass' straight into Dysons keeper Dave Barker's arms ! (The 'yips' is a terminology used for a nervous affliction in other sports, such as a Darts player being unable to release a dart or a Snooker player being unable to hit the cue ball properly...anyone remember Bill Werbeniuk ? (The Snooker player who had to drink 20 pints of Lager each game to cure his nerves...or maybe that's

Rebairo's problem ?)

With a freezing cold and almost gale-force wind against us in the First Half, that looked to be a costly error as Simon Jackson had to make an excellent flying save shortly afterwards to tip a fierce long-range wind-assisted shot round the post, but we managed to hold out until Half-Time thanks to some excellent defending where our back four played really well as a unit thanks to right-back Lee Osborn keeping his concentration this time and not playing forwards onside.

In fact our defence then continued to play well in the Second Half with Simon Jackson only having one really difficult save to make, but Dysons Rovers defenders were equally well-organised with their wing-backs tucking in to make it more of a 5-3-2 formation than a 3-5-2 as they defended against the wind. With Dysons having kept 5 clean sheets in their 9 League matches so far this season before this match, it therefore looked like a certain 0-0 was on the cards, but Dysons only had the bare eleven for this match whereas we were able to bring on three good substitutes in the later stages and the game gradually turned our way because of that with several good chances being created, particularly one for Lexton Harrison when he found himself clean through after outpacing the Dysons defence, but keeper Barker made an excellent save with his legs.

However, our persistence finally paid off in the second minute of Injury Time when Lexton Harrison ignored shouts to leave a long throw-in for Peter Sutton to take and quickly took it himself, thereby causing a scramble in the Dysons 6-yard box which Sutton capitalised on to 'shin' the ball into the bottom corner from close range ! With the Final Whistle going right on the re-start, that gave our Reserves only their second League win of the season, and although there is still no sign of a 'proper' Reserve Team player actually scoring a League goal this season other than Peter Murphy's double against Rosemill Reserves, at least it was a good confidence-boosting victory and hopefully the Reserves can now go on from here and easily escape relegation.

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit Dysons Rovers website and read their Match Report.