

Sunday 9th January 2011

ORC Sports Waltham (Sunday) Football League Division One Match at Hazelwood Sports Ground

Kick-Off: 10.30.a.m. ? (Nobody on the touchline to write it down !)

Result: EDMONTON ROVERS.....1 EAST HERTS6 *Half-Time: 1-3*

SHIRT NUMBER	TEAM (3-1-4-2)			MARKS OUT OF 10	GOAL TIMES
1	GK	Simon JACKSON		6	
17	RCH	Terry MOORE		5½	
7	SW/IF (52)	Stuart DORWARD (Captain)		5	
4	LCH	Alan BARNARD		6	
3	Hold CM	Steve COKELL		6½	
16	RM	Tony KING		5	
8	CM	Danny HAGAN		5½	
6	CM	Terry BROWN		5½	
11	LM	Vernon NXUMALO		6½	
10	CF	Conor McGOVERN		5	12 mins.
9	CF	Danny SMITH		5	
SUBSTITUTES					

OWN GOALS Scored For Us:

PLAYER-MANAGER: Stuart Dorward

ATTENDANCE: 4

OPPONENTS' FAIR PLAY MARK (Out of 10): 9

REFEREE: Denis Coventry

BOOKINGS: Danny Smith (28 mins. - Dissent)

SENDING-OFFS: None

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Sunny but Cold

CLUB LINESMAN: None ! (Fined £5.00 !)

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: L.Hughes, D.Johnson, J.Beasley

OUR FAIR PLAY MARK (Given by Opponents): 9

REFEREE'S MARK (Out of 100): CONFIDENTIAL

STATE OF PITCH: Very Muddy & Badly Churned Up !

UNAVAILABILITY: (8 Players) Lexton Harrison (Suspended), Martin Loveday (Flu), Andrew Warmerdam (Flu/Family Commitments), Jim Arrowsmith & Trevor Hughes (Manager) (On Holiday), Tom Watts (Still Away up North for Xmas)
Saturday/Sunday Drop-Outs: Rob Brown (Family Commitments), Lee King & Dean Assiamah ('No Show' on the day)

OPPONENTS' LINE-UP (4-4-2):

1. Rory Wheeler (GK); 7. Charlie Ayres (RB), 6. Charlie Pritchard (CH), 14. Rob Dennett (Captain...CH), 8. Gavin Kirby (LB); 16. Simon Beattie (RM), 4. Tony Palgrave (CM), 13. Ronnie Howard (CM), 11. Vince DiCarlo (LM); 3. Kieran Dignan (CF), 9. Stuart McCall (CF) **Subs.** None

OPPONENTS' GOALSCORERS: Beattie (11, 69 mins.), McCall (28, 52 mins.), Howard (42 mins.), Dignan (74 mins.)

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Trevor Hughes was still away on holiday for this game against Division One title contenders East Herts, therefore missing his second Rovers match in a row, so skipper Stuart Dorward had to continue as Caretaker/Player-Manager for the day. After promising performances in our last two matches before Christmas, we were hoping to go on a good run and put in a title challenge ourselves starting from here on in, but that all went out of the window when defenders Martin Loveday & Andrew Warmerdam and midfield holding player Rob Brown all dropped out due to flu and/or family commitments, and then worst of all, Lee King & Dean Assiamah failed to turn up on the day, leaving us with just a bare eleven, including several very unfit players who had not kicked a ball for months. Although East Herts only had a bare eleven themselves due to players not wanting to go sub (nice to hear that other clubs have the same problem as us in that respect !), they were all first-choice players who turn up every week and were simply fitter, faster and younger than us all round. The rout started as early as the 11th minute when Simon Beattie tapped in after a scramble from a corner, and although Conor McGovern equalised less than a minute later with a good finish from Vernon 'Kizza' Nxumalo's excellent run & cross, we soon came under the cosh again with Simon Jackson having to make a number of good saves to keep us in the game. Further goals before half-time from Stuart McCall with a low shot from the edge of the area and Ronnie Howard with a header from a corner saw us come off 3-1 down at the break, but despite a rant from Stuart during the interval, we soon let in a 4th goal which killed the game off, McCall netting his 2nd of the game in the 52nd minute after beating Jacko to a long ball. We did actually have quite a few chances ourselves in the Second Half as we went to a 2-1-4-1-2 formation straight after that with Stuart pushing himself up from sweeper to a role behind the forwards, but Conor blazed most of them high and wide as his lack of match practice showed. Not surprisingly, East Herts then punished us twice more on the break as Alan Barnard was forced into trying to play offside with only him and Terry Moore back in defence...except we had no Club Linesman ! In fact with East Herts' 6th goal coming in the 74th minute, we could easily have let in 10 in the end, and we just had to look on this game as a necessary fitness exercise as we were probably never going to win it ! **LAURENCE HUGHES**