

Sunday 28th August 2016

Pre-Season Friendly Match at Enfield Playing Fields (Pitch 9)

Kick-Off: 10.37.a.m.

Result: EDMONTON ROVERS 1 EDMONTON BLADES 1 *Half-Time:* 1-0

SHIRT NUMBER	TEAM (4-2-3-1)			GOAL TIMES
1	GK	Stephen ROUSSEY		
7	RB/RM37	Chris KRITICOS	OFF 58	
15	CB	Ivan BASS	OFF HT	
19	CB	Harold OFORI		
3	LB	Aiden KAVANAGH		37 Mins.
17	CM Holding/CBHT	Curtis BAALAM		
16	CM Holding	Daniel CASCOE (Captain)		
10	RM/RB37	Andreas KRITICOS		
14	ACM/CM HoldingHT	Connor KAVANAGH		
8	LM	Ayo MATTHEWS	OFF 75	
18	CF	Hal OZKAN	OFF 64	
SUBSTITUTES				
12	ACM	Cihan ESEN	ON HT	
9	RM	Tom CROAKE	ON 58	
4	CF	Leon McKENZIE-McKAY	ON 64	
11	LM	Zac TROULLOUS	ON 75	
	Not Used	Khaheem McKENZIE		
	Not Used	Daniel DALEY		

OWN GOALS Scored For Us:

MANAGER: Tony McKay

CLUB LINESMAN: Not Required

ATTENDANCE: 30

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: L.Hughes, R.Bennett, T.Adil

OPPONENTS' FAIR PLAY MARK (Out of 10): N/A **OUR FAIR PLAY MARK (Given by Opponents):** N/A

REFEREE: Nick Nicolaou

REFEREE'S MARK (Out of 100): N/A

BOOKINGS: None

SENDING-OFFS: None

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Rain (on and off all match)

STATE OF PITCH: Perfect

UNAVAILABILITY: (9 Players) Lexton Harrison (Away), Danny Hagan (Injured), Tyrone Petrie (Working), Grant Baker (GK) (Working & Injured), Benji Ricketts (Injured), Stefan Antoniou (Injured), Rhys McKay (Injured), Chris Akinrele (Away)

Sunday Morning Drop-Outs: Joshua Gustave (No Show)

OPPONENTS' LINE-UP (4-1-4-1): 1. Louis Cant (GK); 4. James Spence (RB), 33. Kevin Nicholls (CB...Captain), 8. Shawn Grout (CB), 16. Marino Eleftheriou (LB); -. Hagan Kumi (CM Holding); -. James Theedham ? (RM), 88. Tristian Morrison (CM), 11. Danny Hasan (CM), 9. Reece Wilkinson (LM); 6. Ibrahim Gursoy (CF)

Subs.: 17. Kyle Hodgson (On after 21 Mins. for Theedham), 6. Liam Knipes (On at HT for ?)

OPPONENTS' GOALSCORER: Gursoy (50 Mins.)

MATCH REPORT

Manager Tony McKay decided to give preference for this last Pre-Season Friendly of the Summer to those of our new players who had only played in one or less of our previous three matches, while Daniel Cascoe was also given a much needed 90 minutes after missing most of Pre-Season so far due to work and family commitments. In fact we had so many players available that several regulars from last season were able to be left out of the squad altogether because we already knew what they could do and they had already had the necessary match practice. With our opponents Edmonton Blades winning Division Two in the Waltham Sunday League by a big margin last season, we were expecting to come under the cosh in the First Half with us fielding such an experimental starting line-up that included 9 players who had played less than five games for the club and in most cases only one game ! However, after a really good pre-match warm-up organised by Player-Fitness Coach Leon McKenzie-McKay, our new players seemed to click straight away and we played really well for the first 45 minutes with left-back Aiden Kavanagh scoring yet another goal to put us 1-0 up at the break, this time with a cleverly-guided close-range left-footed volley in the 37th minute after Andreas Kriticos's long throw had been inadvertently headed on by a defender. We could have scored more, while Stephen Roussety only had one really difficult save to make at the other end, but Blades came out for the Second Half a bit more fired-up while we made a couple of changes that seemed to affect our teamwork. That saw Blades equalise after 50 minutes when Ibrahim Gursoy was left with a free header at the far post from a corner and after that our own Stephen Roussety was by far the busier of the two keepers for the rest of the match with a number of good saves. However, our fitness levels were excellent once again with 13 of our 15 players used all being able to chase after the ball whenever they lost it, whereas last season only 9 or 10 out of 15 would have been able to do that. As the teamwork will undoubtedly improve as the season progresses, hopefully we can get off to a good start in our first League match next week and push on from there.

LAURENCE HUGHES