

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Barnet Sunday League Shield Quarter-Final at Enfield Playing Fields (Pitch 3)**

**Kick-Off:** 10.40 a.m. (Several players late)

**Result:** EDMONTON ROVERS..... 1 ENFIELD ALBION..... 8 **Half-Time:** 0-3

SHIRT NUMBER	TEAM (3-4-1-2)		GOAL TIMES
1	GK	Josh WAKEFORD	
5	RCB	Fergus MURRAY	OFF 79
6	SW	Jack VANVYNCK	
2	LCB	Chris JORDANOU	
11	RWB/LWB 67	Harry DORWARD	
20	CM/ACM HT	Frankie GEORGE	73 Mins.
3	CM	Charlie SAVAGE (Captain)	
7	LWB/RWB 67	Christian ELLIS	
14	ACM/CF HT/RCB 86	Tairique HARRISON	
9	CF	Myreon KEANE	
16	CF/RCB 79/CF 86	Harvey ANTONIOU	OFF HT/BACK ON 79
<b>SUBSTITUTES</b>			
8	CM	Paddy BAYNES	ON HT
<b>OWN GOALS Scored For Us:</b>			

**PLAYER-MANAGER:** Josh Wakeford **CLUB LINESMEN:** Bob Cleary **ATTENDANCE:** 22

**OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT:** Laurence Hughes, Stuart Dorward, Roderick Bennett, Sarah Dorward, Mike Jordanou, Tim Wakeford, Lorna Bennett, Louis Bennett, Sarah Bartlett, John Murray

**REFEREE:** Sam Rose

**BOOKINGS:** Jack Vanvynck (Foul... 23 Mins.), Frankie George (Foul... 80 Mins.) **SENDING-OFFS:** None

**WEATHER CONDITIONS:** Cold strong blustery wind down pitch (against us in First Half) with occasional light rain & drizzle.

**STATE OF PITCH:** Very soft, wet & muddy with long grass. (Heavy rain for five hours before the kick-off).

**UNAVAILABILITY:** (13 Players): Tobi Charles, Omari Vermont, Max Francis, Eddie Cox (Other Commitments), Rashawn Bennett-Dyer, Jordan Amusan, Daniel Schwartz-Gee, Natan Pawlaczyk, Gianni Dipo (All Injured), Sam Pritchett (Working), Stuart Dorward (Illness), Michael Menzies (Playing Youth Football), Ritchie Redgrave (GK) (Playing Vets Football)

**OPPONENTS' LINE-UP (4-2-3-1):** 1. Bobby Bartlett (GK), 2. Joe Sanders (RB...Captain), 15. Gabriel Warren (RCB), 3. Alex Puchalla (LCB), 35. Wayne Scott (LB); 19. Nathan Grant (RCM), 14. Lewis Billington (LCM); 11. James Reader (RM), 12. Olu Oyewobi (ACM), 16. Can Cicek (LM); 9. Gabriel Kolnikaj (CF) **Subs.** 10. Mo Ali, 8. Jack Vial, 3. Jon Reader (All Used)

**OPPONENTS' GOALSCORERS:** James Reader (9, 86 Mins.), Cicek (13 Mins.), Oyewobi (19 Mins.), Kolnikaj (75, 82, 90, 90+1 Mins.)

**MATCH REPORT...** Having produced our best performance of the season so far the week before when a bare eleven beat Camden Lock to more-or-less clinch the Division Five Runners-Up spot, it was really disappointing that four of the 'stars' of that show made themselves unavailable for this Cup Quarter-Final against a team we had beaten twice already this season and with an easy-looking Semi-Final against a struggling side from the bottom of Division Six up for grabs. Although we welcomed back skipper Charlie Savage and his fellow key midfielders Harry Dorward, Frankie George & Paddy Baynes after they had all missed the Camden Lock match, we had too many players starting this game who had not been playing regularly enough in recent weeks, and it also didn't help that a number of them turned up just before the kick-off and had to start the game without a warm-up. That saw us go behind after just 9 minutes when James Reader ran in behind our defence to bury an excellent first-time shot into the top corner, although it was a quality through ball from Albion's recent signing Can Cicek (who had not played against us before) that created the goal. Indeed Cicek had already hit the crossbar with a screamer before that, and he made it 2-0 after just 13 minutes with a fierce first-time shot into the top corner from a long diagonal ball over the top, this being another quality finish that we couldn't do much about. We then found ourselves 3-0 down after only 19 minutes when ex-Rovers winger Mo Ali came on as an early substitute and got a cross in which Josh Wakeford could only punch out to the feet of Albion midfielder Olu Oyewobi, who buried another well-struck shot into the bottom corner from the edge of the area. We then had to throw men forward after that, leaving ourselves open at the back, but as Josh started making several good saves, our finishing was atrocious at the other end with most of our efforts at goal either being sliced well wide or trickling along the ground in the mud/ridiculously long grass straight at Albion's giant stand-in keeper Bobby Bartlett, a centre-forward who had been re-signed during the week after a spell with Division Four side North West Wolves. We finally managed to pull a goal back in the 73<sup>rd</sup> minute though when Frankie George's scuffed right-footed effort trickled in off the far post, but Albion killed the game off with a fourth goal just two minutes later as Gabriel Kolnikaj easily outjumped our defence to head in a pinpoint long free-kick from the half-way line. Our players heads then went down badly after that with no attacking substitutes available and we conceded another four goals in the space of just nine minutes with Kolnikaj...who scored all five against us in our recent 7-5 League win against them...notching four in total this time while midfielder James Reader grabbed a second for himself, all of these goals being more-or-less tap-ins into an empty net with most of our players having given up trying to make challenges. At least it was confirmed afterwards that we had finished as Division 5 Runners-Up though, so that softened the blow somewhat.