

Sunday 26th October 2003

London F.A. Sunday Junior Cup, Second Round Match at the Bethune Recreation Ground, Friern Barnet

FINCHLEY REDS	1	EDMONTON ROVERS RESERVES	1	HT 1-0
(After Extra Time) Edmonton Rovers Reserves won 5-4 on penalties				FT 1-1
Barretto (10 mins.)		R.Beeden (80 mins.)		

Finchley Reds' Line-Up: No Team Details

Edmonton Rovers Reserves Line-Up (with Marks out of 10): Darryl JOHNSON (GK) (10 !); Ali AHMED (6), Gary ADAMSON (5), Scott ROBERTSON (6), Terry DELLER (6); Jerome HARRISON (6), Paul REBAIRO (6), Brian KAMUTEKU (5½), Lee OSBORN (6); Barry MATTHEWS (6), Daniel OMISORE (6) **Subs.:** Russell BEEDEN (6½), Billy BURNHAM (6), Dave BAGNALL (6½)

Referee: M.S. BARNES

Weather Conditions: Sunny, but Cold

Attendance: 10

Report (From information supplied by Reserve Team Manager Mark Howley): Mark has been too busy with work commitments to e-mail a report of this match through at the moment, so I will just give a few details of what happened as far as I know...even though I wasn't there myself !

Finchley Reds finished 4th in the top Division of the two-Division Asian Sunday League last season and actually entered the London F.A. Sunday Intermediate Cup where they did better than our First Team managed in that competition ! That meant our Reserves should have been facing tough opposition and certain elimination, but thanks to an inspired display by our regular First Team keeper Darryl Johnson we managed to scrape our way through to the Third Round after a dramatic (and controversial) Penalty Shoot-Out victory.

Surprisingly though, Finchley Reds were not as good as the opposition our Reserves had been facing in their League matches so far this season, but we didn't capitalise on that as virtually all of our outfield players had an absolute nightmare in the First Half (and most of the Second) with half of them seemingly still asleep (despite the clocks going back an hour overnight) and the other half on a mission to give their team-mates as much of a 'bollocking' as possible, which is totally against what our club stands for nowadays and an alarming throwback to our Haringey League days of the late-80's when such a practice was commonplace and destroyed the confidence of many a promising young player....such as myself !? That will be looked into at the next Club Management Committee Meeting, but a clear-the-air Half-Time team talk improved matters enough that we managed to get back into the game thanks to substitute Russell Beeden's 80th minute equaliser...a close-range shot after a scramble in the area. Before that though, Darryl Johnson (who was playing because Simon Jackson was cup-tied and therefore used for the First Team's match instead) had managed to keep us in the game with at least 10 'miraculous' saves, thereby earning himself a 10 out of 10 from Manager Mark Howley...who had presumably never been told that this had only ever happened on one previous occasion in the club's 28-year history (and *that* mark wasn't given by Laurence or Trevor Hughes either !).

Nevertheless, Darryl was clearly our man-of-the-match, but he couldn't do anything to prevent Finchley Reds taking the lead after just 10 minutes when Ruben Barretto tapped in from close range after a long ball over the top and a low cross had been allowed to be completed far too easily. Gary Adamson then had to come off with some sort of injury half-way through the First Half to be replaced by Billy Burnham, who didn't look as comfortable playing as a sweeper as he had the previous week as an orthodox centre-half, but we still managed to come off at Half-Time only 1-0 down thanks to Darryl Johnson's heroics.

The Second Half continued in much the same vein, but the introduction of the experienced Russell Beeden for the badly out-of-sorts Brian Kamuteku in a central midfield position after 61 minutes gradually started making it a more even contest and Daniel Omisore was unlucky in the 72nd minute when he hit the post after a good move. However, Daniel was booked shortly afterwards (according to the notes Mark has given me, but I have no idea what that was for !?), while he didn't look as good as a forward as he had as a stand-in left back so maybe we will have to experiment a bit more to find out what his best position is. Another player in a similar predicament is Dave Bagnall and he came on as a right-back this time for Ali Ahmed in the 75th minute, thereby using up all our three permitted substitutes before Russell Beeden ensured the game went into Extra-Time with his late equaliser.

Extra-Time itself though was mainly notable only for another silly Booking for skipper Paul Rebaire, who was apparently shown the yellow card for kicking the ball away to waste time before the referee had actually blown his whistle !?

With no more Replays nowadays though, the game ended up having to be decided by a Penalty Shoot-Out...which was avidly followed via numerous First Team players' mobile phones down On Broadway and greeted with raucous laughter when Lee Osborn (predictably ?) missed and shock when our supposed expert Paul Rebaire did likewise. Thankfully though, Russell Beeden had managed to convert his attempt without any problems, but both Daniel Omisore and Terry Deller had a real lucky escape when they both missed their initial penalties but converted at the second attempt after Referee Barnes ordered a re-take for the Finchley Reds keeper moving too early...this almost certainly being down to the fact that he was being assessed !?

This of course caused uproar with two Finchley Reds players then being sent off for dissent and the rest of their team threatening to walk off...until Russell Beeden persuaded them not to !? (allegedly !). That of course would have given us the match anyway, but Barry Matthews stepped up to score an eventual winner after Darryl Johnson had not surprisingly made a couple of crucial saves and we were through to the Third Round...but not exactly 'safely' !

