

Sunday 21st March 2010 (SECOND MATCH OF DOUBLE-HEADER...30 Minutes each way)

Waltham Sunday League Division One Match at Hazelwood Sports Ground

FLAMSTEAD END	6	EDMONTON ROVERS	0	HT 2-0
Russell (12 mins.), P.Bourke (29 mins.), Swift (35 mins.), Hart (41, 52, 58 mins.)				

FLAMSTEAD END'S LINE-UP: Gary STEVENS (GK); Luke WEBB, Paul BOURKE, David RUSSELL, Michael LOCK; Nicky BARNES, Stefano DiPIAZZA, Patrick QUINN, Dean LEWIS; Kevin BOURKE, Danny SWIFT

Subs.: Louis HART (On for Lewis 37 mins.), Paul PANNELL (On for P.Bourke 37 mins.), Daniel REEVE (On for No.5 Swift 44 mins.)

EDMONTON ROVERS LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10): Darryl JOHNSON (GK) (5½); Terry MOORE (6), Alan BARNARD (5½), Martin LOVEDAY (6); Kris SPYROU (6), Rob BROWN (6), Danny SMITH (6), Steve COKELL (6); Stuart DORWARD (6); Conor MCGOVERN (5½), Daniel DALEY (6) **Sub.:** Tony KING (5½) (On for McGovern 37 Mins.)

Referee: Ian ANDREWS

Weather Conditions: Mainly Sunny

Attendance: 10

Report (by Laurence Hughes): For this second match, Manager Trevor Hughes decided to start with Kris Spyrou and then bring on Tony King for Daniel Daley in the Second Half as Daley wanted to go home early to watch 'Man United' on the box. No problem then, as Trevor could then concentrate on being Lino again and not have to worry about mass substitutions that would have been the case had a squad of 14 or more made themselves available. The Lino aspect was of course the reason why Trevor was not keen on chasing up replacements from our 39 registered players once Danny Hagan and 'Kizza' had dropped out, although as it happened, most of those 39 players were either out at a party on Saturday night or away for the weekend with their WAGS (from what I read on Facebook)...not just messers Hagan, Arrowsmith & T.Brown, so the chances of us finding a squad of 14 or more were pretty remote anyway. However, although Flamstead End fielded a side for this second match that included about 8 fresh players, we still managed to compete well for most of the First Half and didn't give them too many chances. We were actually a bit unlucky when they took the lead in the 12th minute as Darryl Johnson made a good save from David Russell's penalty after a handball by Danny Smith, but the rebound went straight back to Russell for an easy tap-in. Although we were unable to create any clear-cut chances ourselves because we didn't have enough pairs of fresh legs, we would have been happy to come off at Half-Time only 1-0 down, and in fact that scoreline would have been a fairly accurate reflection of the First Half. However, not for the first time this season, we then went and let in a really bad goal right on the Half-Time whistle when some of our players turned their backs on an attempted shot in the 6-yard box from a corner, but Flamstead End defender Paul Bourke actually mis-kicked it and it trickled into the net! At least that's how Stuart Dorward (one of the culprits?) explained it as he came off at the break a few seconds later. The Video Notes will reveal all...and they will be scathing, as that goal killed the game off and the following 30 minutes resulted in one of the worst and most embarrassing performances I have seen from a Rovers side for many a year about 3 months (in that Second Half hailstorm against St. Mary's).

It took Flamstead End just 5 minutes to make it 3-0 after the break when Danny Swift tried his luck from about 30 yards and the ball sailed over Darryl Johnson and into the top corner, thereby sparking a deliberate piss-taking celebration by Swift for the camera...as if he had just scored against Barcelona rather than an ageing collection of 35-year-olds whose legs had gone. The professional cameraman that I am though, meant that I still filmed it, but I couldn't bear to look through the viewfinder. I just pointed the camera in the general direction and looked away, while resisting the temptation to jump down off my podium and 'chin the geezer'...which wouldn't have been a good idea as he looked like some kind of bodybuilder and no doubt would have smashed me to pulp...and I don't think my fellow League Officers would have been too impressed either! What was far more annoying though, was that most of our players couldn't care less as they were playing for fun anyway (with the honourable exception of Rob Brown & Danny Smith). Unfortunately, Rob and Smithy were so knackered from the effort they had put in (and niggling injuries) that they were unable to show any more fighting spirit themselves, while Conor McGovern hobbling off with a knee injury just two minutes later caused even more damage. With us only having one substitute (and an ill one at that), that gave Daniel Daley the right hump as he then



knew he was going to miss the First Half of Man United v. Liverpool, while Stuart Dorward in particular was really struggling having hardly played at all for several months due to work and family commitments. With the chances of us scoring now zero, our players just sat back for the rest of the match and basically only bothered to put in a challenge if the ball came near them. Flamstead End of course had soon brought on three fresh substitutes, one of them being forward Louis Hart, who then went on to score a quick-fire hat-trick. The first of those three goals (and his side's fourth) in the 41st minute was simple enough...an easy finish after an apparent 'mistake' by Darryl Johnson (according to Manager Hughes), but I have to admit that his second goal (and their 5th) in the 52nd minute was one of the best goals I have ever seen at any level of football...a blistering volley from a pinpoint left-wing cross after a brilliant fast move. Fair play to him for not taking the piss in front of the camera for that one, although he did a bit for his third (and their 6th) in the 58th minute after a terrible defensive blunder by the extremely pissed Alan Barnard.

However, we only have ourselves to blame in not making sure we had a squad of 14 or more, as that was by far the main reason for such a bad capitulation. In fact, there is even a case for leaving players out who are as pissed as Barney, especially when he came out with the statement on the final whistle that 'Flamstead End are not a good side'. I think when he sobers up and watches the highlights on You Tube, he will be able to correct himself. The first match of this Double-Header showed that we are as good as any team in the Division when we field a strong starting line-up. Somehow we have got to find a way of overcoming the 'Don't want to come and go Sub and end up running the line' problem. We are not going to win anything until that is resolved...or until Manager Hughes decides to phone players and persuades them to do so (as happens at virtually all other Sunday clubs).



TREVOR HUGHES'S MANAGER'S REPORT

Having won the first match 2-1 we would have been happy for a point from the second game particularly because we had Tony King feeling unwell with a stomach bug, Alan Barnard with a hangover and Conor McGovern and Daniel Daley struggling with injuries. The second game was tight at the start until we conceded a penalty when Danny Smith handled on the edge of the area. Darryl continued his good form from the first match by saving the penalty but our luck ran out as the rebound went straight back to the taker for an easy finish. In the last minute of the first half we conceded a rare goal from a corner as the ball ran loose for another tap in. The 2-0 scoreline saw a few of our heads drop as tiredness was now a major factor and whilst we hoped an early goal would get us back into the game we went 3-0 down with a spectacular long shot into the top

corner again giving Darryl no chance. Conor now came off leaving the unwell Tony King to partner the injured Daley up front and our heads really dropped. Further goals came in the 42nd, 52nd and 58th minutes to make the final score an embarrassing 6-0 defeat.