

Sunday 17th September 2006

London F.A. Sunday Intermediate Cup Second Round Match at Oakfields, Redbridge Sports Centre, Barkingside, Essex

FRENFORD (SUNDAY)	4	EDMONTON ROVERS	2	HT 3-2
6, 12, 32, 69 mins.		D.Dorward (17 mins.), GK Own Goal (30 mins.)		

FRENFORD (SUNDAY)'S LINE-UP: No Team Details

EDMONTON ROVERS LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10): Ozel OZERMAN (GK) (6½); Colin BESTER (7), Paul WOOLSTON (8), Stuart DORWARD (7½), Terry MOORE (8); Nick VERTIGANS (8), Paul ELLERKER (7½), Clark WILLIAMS (7), Tony KING (7); Derek DORWARD (7), Steve COKELL (6½) **Subs.:** Danny HAGAN (7), Kris SPYROU (6), Foysol AHMED (Not Used), Tem ADIL (Not Used)

Referee: Sangsoo BYUN

Weather Conditions: Warm & Sunny

Attendance: 16



Factual Report (by Laurence Hughes):
Having lost our first League match 7-0 the week before, we would have been hoping for the sort of draw we had in the First (i.e. Second because 'everyone' had a Bye !) Round in the London F.A. Sunday Intermediate Cup last season when we beat A Small World 13-1. However, this was exactly the opposite, as Frenford (Sunday) had finished third in the top Division of the very strong [Essex Sunday Corinthian League](#) last season, while also reaching the Semi-Finals of the Essex F.A. Sunday Premier Cup. On turning up at the venue we then found out they are also managed by the same people who were behind the now-defunct but all-conquering Memorial Sports side that won numerous League & County F.A. trophies in the past five years (including the London F.A. Sunday Challenge Cup...i.e. for the best Sunday teams

in London !), so we were therefore facing a really tough test of our character.

Although our players were all sober this week, we still had a few more problems to contend with as first-choice keeper Darryl Johnson was missing again due to work commitments while four and a half other first-choice players in Andrew Warmerdam, Conor McGovern, Peter Murphy, Alan Barnard and Tony Speller were also unavailable. In addition to that, Nick Vertigans and Steve Cokell both turned up late after seemingly thinking it would only take 10 minutes to get to the venue from Enfield, thereby not giving Assistant Manager Paul Woolston much of a chance to organise a proper 10-minute warm-up.

Referee Sangsoo Byun on the other hand was certainly well-prepared with his warm-up, as he was already out on the pitch limbering up when the first of us arrived some 45 minutes before kick-off, but it was a wonder he was there at all, as the Frenford Secretary had apparently given up trying to tell him where the ground was as he 'could hardly speak a word of English' and didn't appear to know what 'Barkingside' meant. Maybe there was a dog track somewhere in the sizeable grounds of the Redbridge Sports Centre then ? Somehow though, Manager Trevor Hughes managed to ascertain from Mr. Byun that this was his first-ever game as a qualified Referee, and if that was true it was quite amazing that the London F.A. should appoint somebody for an Intermediate Cup game who was presumably more used to the Kuala Lumpur Sunday League. Although both teams suspected that there might be problems with Mr. Byun's officiating in this match though, they soon lightened up when five minutes before kick-off he asked the players of both teams to line up in a straight line along the touchline with one team one side of the half-way line and the other team the other (with the Captains standing either side of him). This was a very orderly way to conduct a boot-check we thought...only Mr. Byun didn't actually check anybody's boots. He just stood there bolt upright facing towards the centre-circle for 30 seconds as if he was expecting the Malaysian/Indonesian/Singaporean (or wherever he was from) National Anthem to blare out from Frenford's Clubhouse just behind him !

When that didn't happen, he therefore 'tossed up with the skippers' there and then (and not in the centre-circle as normal) before instructing our players to walk past him in a line and shake the Frenford players' hands 'World Cup style' before trotting out onto the pitch. Maybe because he saw me on the far touchline with the camera and tripod he thought the match was being shown live on TV somewhere ? The only problem



with that was nobody told me this was going to happen and by the time I realised what the hell he was playing at and turned the camera on, I had missed half of it...one of the funniest moments in Rovers' history and comparable with the likes of the U.K. Turkiyem Spor match at Hackney Marshes in the 90's and the Tommy Finn incident in our Edmonton Sunday League days. It was a real shame 'Murf' missed this match, as he would have had a field day in his Report of what went on !

When the game finally started (five minutes late because of all that), it

appeared that Paul Ellerker and Nick Vertigans were still pissing themselves laughing (or still pissed from the previous week ?) though, as a couple of sloppy passes straight from the kick-off nearly resulted in us conceding a goal after only 10 seconds instead of the 26 seconds we managed against Trent Park (Arkay). Thankfully the Frenford forward who found himself clean through on goal from that went and shot into the side netting and wasted the opportunity, but Frenford took the lead after just 6 minutes anyway when a free-kick was expertly drilled into a gap behind our defence and in front of 17-year-old keeper Ozel Ozerman for one of their big defenders to volley in completely unopposed.

It soon became clear that Frenford were very similar in style to Risdan Wood (the experienced team from Harlow that beat us 9-0 in a Pre-Season Friendly last season), whereby pinpoint direct diagonal passing and competitive challenging (especially in the air) were their forte rather than the blistering speed and skill of Trent Park (Arkay) which we had so much trouble with the previous week. The problem we had this time then was the absence of all three of our only six-foot plus players in Conor Mc Govern, Andrew Warmerdam and goalkeeper Darryl Johnson, whereas Frenford had five or six players built like that.

However, it was one of their smaller players (playing up front and wearing No. 10) that put them 2-0 up after just 12 minutes with a clever near-post flick from a right-wing cross that went over Ozel Ozerman's head on the goal-line...it would have actually hit Darryl in the chest had he have been in goal !

Although we had managed two or three shots at goal ourselves in those first 12 minutes, we immediately decided to put an extra man in the centre of midfield as Frenford were playing a 3-5-2 formation and were proving to be very strong in there, so that saw Colin Bester move to a right wing-back position with Nick Vertigans pushed inside as we went from a 4-4-2 formation to 3-5-2 to match them and it worked a treat ! Despite the obvious quality of the opposition we were facing, and with so many key players missing, we then managed to give Frenford a really good 'end-to-end' game for the remaining 78 minutes. It was just a shame about the first 12 !

Derek Dorward started the ball rolling with a header from Steve Cokell's excellent cross in the 17th minute which pulled it back to 2-1...it went into the far corner then out through a hole in the back of the net, but fortunately Referee Byun actually turned out to be quite good in his decision-making and correctly spotted that.

We then had further chances (in stark contrast to having virtually none at all the previous week), but Ozel Ozerman also had to make a couple of good saves at the other end to keep us in the match, particularly one where he expertly dived at the feet of a forward in a one-on-one to stop what seemed a certain goal.

However, we managed to equalise in the 30th minute when Nick Vertigans pounced on a mis-hit clearance from the Frenford keeper and blasted a fierce first-time shot against the crossbar from all of 35 yards for what would have been a definite Goal Of The Season contender. Instead it rebounded down onto the keeper's chest and knee and went in for an Own Goal, but we'll take that !

At that stage it looked as if we were perfectly capable of pulling off a real shock result, but then predictably, the Club Linesman problem re-surfaced again. This time it was Foysol Ahmed who was on the Rota, and like Kris Spyrou the week before it became too much of an unwanted chore and he therefore missed an 'obvious offside' in the 32nd minute which allowed Frenford's No. 10 to score his second goal of the match easily and regain the lead.

We really should have equalised again before Half-Time though when Steve Cokell missed an absolute sitter by blazing the ball high over the bar with only the keeper the beat, and with their keeper looking like a weak link (only slightly taller than 'Oz' but half the size in width !), we needed to make our chances count. We therefore came off at the break 3-2 down and we had plenty of time to sort things out as Referee Byun seemed to be quite surprised that both teams came back onto the pitch of their own accord after only 5 minutes. It was defensively that both sides concentrated on tightening up during the interval though, as it had been real 'gung-ho' stuff in the First Half, and the Second Half turned out to be very different with Frenford sitting back more and allowing us a lot more possession which really suited us. That resulted in fewer chances for both sides and the only other goal of the game went to Frenford in the 69th minute when

their No.10 was left completely unchallenged to complete his hat-trick with a header from a corner that made a mockery of our zonal marking system for the second week in a row. (See picture above left). That gave them a 4-2 lead which we were always going to find too difficult to claw back, even though Steve Cokell missed another really good chance after that with a weak scuffed shot straight at the keeper when 'clean through' once again, although Stuart Dorward and Paul Ellerker also had (much more difficult) chances to score towards the end.

Predictably then, we ended up going out of the London Cup in the First/Second Round 'as usual', but there were some real positives for us to take out of this match, particularly in the performances of new players Clark Williams, Tony King and substitute Danny Hagan and the way we passed the ball about and kept possession against a very strong side, especially in the Second Half. The only real concern was that our finishing in this game did not match our approach play, and although our forwards are obviously to blame for that, we could also do with more goals being scored from midfield or by defenders from set-pieces as well.

'Murf's Alternative Report !!: Unfortunately Murf did not play in this match, so there is no 'Alternative Report' for this game !

TREVOR HUGHES'S MANAGER'S REPORT

After our heavy defeat last week we faced another tough match in the London Cup against strong opposition in Frenford Sunday. Ozel Ozerman replaced John Rice in goal, Terry Moore returned in place of Tony Speller and Tony King came into the starting line up to replace Peter Murphy. Murf was the most badly missed, if only for his reporting skills, particularly when the referee, who spoke very little English, lined both teams up before the match to shake hands. How would Murf have described this unusual start to a Sunday morning match? We avoided a first minute goal when the Frenford forward shot into the side netting but we started poorly again and found ourselves 2-0 down after only 12 minutes. Derek Dorward pulled one back with a fine header from Steve Cokell's cross and we started gaining confidence and playing some good football. Nick Vertigans was particularly good in midfield and his long range shot rebounded into the net off the keeper after striking the crossbar for an equaliser. Unfortunately, Frenford regained the lead just two minutes later with a controversial goal when our new system of trusting our substitutes with the flag backfired as Foysol Ahmed 'wasn't watching' when a Frenford forward scored with our defence appealing for offside. Bring back Ritchie, Mark Howley or Ron Beasley! Our mood was still positive at half time and we started the second half well with plenty of possession and chances as we searched for an equaliser. However, the killer goal came on 69 minutes with a free header from a corner for the second week running. At least the team spirit was good after the match as we recognised that it was a much better performance than last week against good opposition and we felt we were unlucky to lose 4-2.