

Sunday 11th February 2018

**DOUBLE-HEADER - First of 2 x 60-Minute Matches (30 Minutes each way)**

**Barnet Sunday League Division One Match at Clowes Sports Ground, Winchmore Hill (Middle Pitch)**

**Kick-Off:** 10.58.a.m. (28 Mins late due to Referee's pitch inspections)

**Result:** **GRANGE PARK** ..... 1 **EDMONTON ROVERS** ..... 0 **Half-Time:** 0-0

SHIRT NUMBER	TEAM (4-4-2)		GOAL TIMES
1	GK	Taurean BRYAN	
2	RB	Lexton HARRISON	
19	CB	Jamie MEHMET	
5	CB	Harold OFORI (Captain)	
12	LB	Brandon SOLOMON	
6	RM	Jack BANGS	
18	CM	Anees IKRAMULLAH	
16	CM	Henry AKINSANMI	
11	LM	Valentine LAURENCE	
7	CF	Ayo MATTHEWS	
9	CF	Godfrey TAY	
<b>NO SUBSTITUTES USED</b>			
<b>OWN GOALS Scored For Us:</b>			

**MANAGER:** Tony McKay

**CLUB LINESMAN:** Not Required by Referee

**ATTENDANCE:** 20

**OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT:** L.Hughes, B.Cleary, I.Bass, B.Boothroyd, G.House, N.Obeng, O.Watson, S.Woolley, D.Cascoe, G.Baker, A.Toppin, T.Solomon

**REFEREE:** Michael McPherson

**BOOKINGS:** None

**SENDING-OFFS:** None

**WEATHER CONDITIONS:** Mainly Sunny with near gale-force freezing cold wind across pitch.

**STATE OF PITCH:** Very soft & muddy. Badly-churned-up through the middle.

**UNAVAILABILITY:** (10 Players) Grant Baker (GK) (Working), Leon McKenzie-McKay (Broken Ankle), Tyronne Petrie (Working), Curtis Balaam (Working), Vishal Patel (Ankle Injury), Aiden Kavanagh (Futsal), Tom Croake (Family Commitments)

**Sunday Morning Drop-Outs:** Daniel Daley (Family Commitments), Daniel Cascoe (Forgot his boots!), Jordan Umpire (No Show)

**OPPONENTS' LINE-UP (4-4-2):** 1. Shaun Moore (GK); 6. Harry Pell (RB), 12. Adrian Hoxhaj (CB), 20. Ricky Brennan (CB), 15. Berkhan Kartal (LB); 7. Joe Stone (RM), 10. Dale Reilly (CM), 9. Matt Line (CM...Captain), 8. Josh Johnson (LM); 4. Jimmie Brennan (CF), 16. Tom Sullivan (CF)

**Subs.:** 2. Joe Purvis (On at HT for Sullivan), 18. Steve Casey (Not Used), 17. Jordan Solanke (Not Used)

**OPPONENTS' GOALSCORER:** R.Brennan (48 Mins.)

### MATCH REPORT

With us having only played one competitive match since the 3rd December, Manager Tony McKay had taken the opportunity to bring in numerous new players in an effort to put an end to a dismal run of no win in our last eleven matches, getting rid of (or ignoring) several who had either been too slow on the ball, not aware enough tactically or unwilling to play in different positions for the good of the team. With six first-choice players from last season's successful side also unavailable for this Double-Header and five players in the starting line-up for this first match who were either making their debuts or had only played less than a handful of matches between them, we really didn't know what to expect, but the almost unplayable state of the pitch and the near gale-force wind was certainly a bit of a leveller in our favour against a Grange Park side who had only lost one match all season (apart from three penalty shoot-out defeats in Cup matches), and that solitary League defeat was to runaway leaders The Winchmore. Thankfully our new players settled well straight away and showed good pace, strength and fitness to compete on equal terms in the strength-sapping conditions. The First Half finished goal-less though, despite a few penalty area scrambles at both ends, but the Second Half saw us get on top with Grange Park's regular keeper Shaun Moore starting to make some good saves...and there was the problem for us as usual, as our often-absent first-choice keeper Grant Baker turned up without his kit after coming straight from work, while our latest attempt at finding a proper goalkeeper to replace Grant for those now-regular work commitments had failed miserably with James Gibbs letting in 15 goals in the two matches he played in. We therefore had to put defender Taurean Bryan in goal again, and unfortunately he conceded the only goal of the game with just 12 minutes remaining as he allowed a hopeful long free-kick into the area from Ricky Brennan to sail over his head and into the net when it should have been comfortably tipped over the bar. Grange Park then defended their lead for the rest of the match with some heroic last-ditch challenges and another good save...but this time by midfielder Josh Johnson, who stuck his hands up above his head to miraculously stop Godfrey Tay's close-range overhead kick flying into the top corner in the 54th minute only for Referee McPherson to rule it as 'too close to get out of the way in time'...presumably? At least we appealed loudly though, and in general our effort, commitment and fitness levels was so much better than in recent matches where we have often ended up losing by big margins. With Taurean hardly having anything to do apart from picking the ball out of the net just the once, we also defended really well as a unit, in stark contrast to our last League match when we were all over the place at the back, while the 4-4-2 formation seemed to suit us with Ayo Matthews and Godfrey Tay's pace, skill and fitness up front being a dangerous combination. Unfortunately it just wasn't the sort of pitch where the rest of our players were ever going to be able to get the ball up to them quickly enough, and in the end, the pitch benefitted Grange Park's players more than it did ours.