

Sunday 25th February 2018

Barnet Sunday League Division One Match at Bethune Park, Whetstone

Kick-Off: 10.45.a.m. (No Show by the Referee)

Result: GTFA 1 EDMONTON ROVERS 2 *Half-Time: 0-2*

SHIRT NUMBER	TEAM (4-2-3-1)			GOAL TIMES
1	GK	Lexton HARRISON		
2	RB	Sam WOOLLEY	OFF (Inj.) 66	
6	CB	Jamie MEHMET		
5	CB	Harold OFORI (Captain)		
3	LB	Oshade WATSON		
18	CM Holding	Anees IKRAMULLAH		
15	CM Holding	Henry AKINSANMI		
8	RM	Jack BANGS	OFF 50	19 Mins.
16	ACM	Daniel CASCOE	OFF (Inj.) 29	
7	LM	Valentine LAURENCE	OFF 50	
10	CF	George HOUSE	OFF 58	2 Mins.
SUBSTITUTES				
12	ACM	Curtis BAALAM	ON 29	
11	RM	Daniel DALEY	ON 50	
19	LM	Nana OBENG	ON 50	
9	CF	Ayo MATTHEWS	ON 58	
20	RB	Tyronne PETRIE	ON 66	

OWN GOALS Scored For Us:

MANAGER: Tony McKay

CLUB LINESMAN: Nana Obeng/Daniel Cascoe/ Jack Bangs

ATTENDANCE: 20

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: L.Hughes, T.Hughes, G.Baker, A.Kriticos

REFEREE: Bob Cleary

BOOKINGS: None

SENDING-OFFS: None

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Sunny with strong freezing cold wind across pitch from corner to corner (Against us in First Half)

STATE OF PITCH: Very bobbly.

UNAVAILABILITY: (10 Players) Grant Baker (GK) (Injured), Taurean Bryan ('GK') (Away), Leon McKenzie-McKay (Broken Ankle), Brandon Solomon (Injured), Ivan Bass (Injured), Tyriquee Solomon (Injured), Godfrey Tay (Hamstring Injury), Aiden Kavanagh (Futsal), Ben Boothroyd (Social Commitments), Jordan Umpire (Other Commitments) **Sunday Morning Drop-Outs:** None

OPPONENTS' LINE-UP (4-1-4-1): 1. Landi Duraku (GK); 2. Almir Isufaj (RB), 5. Ali Taha (CB), 7. Dori Duraku (CB), 3. Andrew Sutherland (LB); 8. Indistel Koqiu (CM Holding); 12. Artan Veseli (RM), -. Besmir Sokoli (CM), 10. Arnis Memia (CM), 11. Landi Llukovi (LM); 99. Togant Papazi (CF) **Subs.:** 80. Dennis Haldini, 6. Shatri Kleris

OPPONENTS' GOALSCORER: Memia (59 Mins.)

MATCH REPORT

With our opponents GTFA below us in the Division One table, this was a match we badly needed to win to stave off the threat of relegation, and as such, we managed to field a strong squad of 16, albeit without injured keeper Grant Baker once again and with Lexton Harrison having to play in goal for the second week running. Manager Tony McKay also decided to drop a few regular starters to the subs bench in order to shake things up a bit after failing to win in our last 14 matches, and that paid off after just two minutes when George House, who was playing in an unfamiliar lone striker's role, pounced on a defensive mistake to put us 1-0 up with an easy finish. It then got even better for us after just 19 minutes when Jack Bangs made it 2-0 from the rebound after GTFA keeper Landi Duraku had made a good save from a Val Laurence shot, and at that stage it looked as if we would win by a comfortable margin again as we had against them at Home earlier in the season. However, the freezing cold near gale-force wind and bobbly pitch made it difficult for us to pass the ball well and both sides found it difficult to create clear-cut chances for the rest of the half. The pattern continued early on in the Second Half despite us bringing on all five substitutes at various stages, but the game became a lot more open in the 59th minute when GTFA midfielder Arnis Memia pulled a goal back with a tap-in from a scramble in the area after we had failed to clear a free-kick. We then had plenty of chances to kill the game off but we hit far too many shots wide of the target, although the state of the pitch didn't help. The biggest problem with it being such a close scoreline though, was that the appointed Referee had failed to turn up after the GTFA Secretary had failed to realise there had been a late change at 10.00 pm the night before, meaning the Referee was still in bed asleep when he was phoned to confirm his appointment while we were all warming up on the pitch. With GTFA agreeing to have our own Club Linesman & Goalkeeping Coach Bob Cleary as the Referee so that the game could be played, it was always going to happen that he would get accused of being biased at some stage, especially with the last few minutes of the match seeing us hanging on a bit to secure the three points. Bob therefore only played one minute of added on time at the end to save himself from more abuse, but the video will prove that he was fair with his decisions (as always), so GTFA can only have themselves to blame for losing their heads and for not confirming with the officially-appointed replacement Referee in the first place. It was a really good disciplined performance by us under these circumstances and in difficult weather conditions, and we deserved to win the game on the balance of play anyway.