

Sunday 16th November 2003

Mercury Waltham Sunday League (Division Four) Match at Albany Park (Pitch 6)

EDMONTON ROVERS RESERVES	0	HODDESDON SNOOKER CLUB	4	HT 0-3
		Boxall (10, 17, 21 mins.), Davis (65 mins.)		

Edmonton Rovers Reserves Line-Up (with Marks out of 10): Simon JACKSON (GK) (6½); Lee OSBORN (6), Matt STEELL (6½), Billy BURNHAM (7), Terry DELLER (6½); Jerome HARRISON (6), Russell BEEDEN (6), Brian KAMUTEKU (6), Peter MURPHY (6); Lexton HARRISON (6½), Leon Mc,KENZIE-Mc,KAY (6½) **Subs.:** Tony SPELLER (6½), Mashood BURAAHEE (6)

Hoddesdon Snooker Club's Line-Up: Michael FIELD (GK); Anth SHARP, Adam PARLOUR, Andy EVANS; Chas ROWLEY, Glen YORKE, John DAVIS, Luke PALMER, James CLYNE; John BOXALL, Mark OSBORN **Subs.:** Danny COLE, Jose LEMA, Andy GORDON

Referee: Barry GROSSMITH

Weather Conditions: Sunny & Dry

Attendance: 23



Lexton being an intended Reserve Team player at the start of the season anyway and Speller only being named as a substitute to come on if anybody was unable to last a full match due to fitness reasons...although Speller looked even more unfit himself due to a heavy drinking session the night before !? Although Simon Jackson, Matt Steell, Jerome Harrison and Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay had all appeared for the First Team at various stages so far this season (because of the First Team's major injury crisis) they were by no means regulars at Premier Division level and with the likes of Paul Rebairo, Myron Mc,Kay, Barry Matthews, Scott Robertson and numerous others all unavailable who would normally have been in the Reserve Team's starting line up whether the First Team were playing or not, it meant we were fielding a whole team of players who hardly even knew each others' names and were therefore nothing like a settled side.

Hoddesdon Snooker Club though, turned up an hour before the kick-off (in their matching tracksuits) to do a proper warm-up on the pitch and a huddle just before the kick-off, while they also had plenty of good substitutes and spectators on the line, all this no doubt as a result of having only lost once last season in gaining promotion from Division 5 and then starting this season off with nine straight wins in League & Cup matches coming into this fixture !

Although we didn't have any problems with players turning up late (for a change), we certainly weren't as organised as that, and that was to show in the first 21 minutes of the match when Hoddesdon Snooker Club forward John Boxall scored a hat-trick within 11 minutes, all as a result of half of our players trying to mark zonally from corners (as our First Team do...properly !) and the other half trying to mark man-for-man...the main reason for this being that most Home Reserve Team matches this season have seen Manager Mark Howley having to take down the nets and put them up on another pitch at the last minute instead of doing a Pre-Match Team Talk, while in Away matches too many players have turned up late or not at all and any pre-planned tactics have had to be abandoned. On this occasion, it actually appeared that Mark, Assistant Player-Manager Russell Beeden and skipper Lee Osborn had actually told everyone to 'F**k the zonal marking' (as our Life-Vice President Demitrius Nurse used to say when we first tried it in the early 90's !), but First Team Manager Trevor Hughes (who had turned up to Coach our new players...while acting as Club Linesman for the day) had told them to mark

Report: With our First Team not having a match arranged, we were hoping to be able to field a strong enough side to give the Division Four leaders a good close game, but it ended up being nothing of the sort as we had too many first-choice Reserve Team squad players missing ([Click Here](#) to see a full list !), while Hoddesdon Snooker Club proved to be a lot better than we expected and by far the best team our Reserves had faced so far this season.

The main reason for our opponents playing so well though, was that they had fired themselves up thinking they would be playing our First Team...even though the League rules only allow us to play 'No more than two players who have played in three or more of the last four First Team League & League Cup fixtures'. Lexton Harrison and Tony Speller were therefore included from that particular criteria, with



zonally and therefore confused the issue. That saw Boxall have a completely free header for his first goal, a tap-in on the goal-line for his second (after Simon Jackson mistakenly tried to catch the ball under pressure instead of punch it away) (*See Picture Above Right*) and then another header for his third which somebody would have headed away on the edge of the 6-yard box before it reached him if they had been marking zonally.

On finding ourselves 3-0 down already the game was more or less over and in fact we were lucky not to concede more goals in the First Half as Hoddesdon Snooker Club were far too fit, quick, fired up and aggressive for us in midfield, but they blazed several shots high or wide from good positions instead of hitting the target and therefore let us off the hook. However, we failed to manage a single shot at goal in the First Half, despite fielding two good forwards for a change who were not injured, badly unfit or likely to just walk off the pitch when we went a few goals down. That was because our midfield players just didn't have enough time on the ball and were unable to create anything until the last 20 minutes or so...by which time Hoddesdon Snooker Club had scored a 4th goal through skipper John Davis (after Lee Osborn had played him onside thanks to his usual lapse in concentration) and then brought on three presumably weaker substitutes with the game already 'dead'. However, Lexton Harrison, Jerome Harrison & Brian Kamuteku's efforts (our only ones of the match !?) all failed to trouble keeper Michael Field and we ended up with yet another League defeat which only went and confirmed that: a) The Reserve Team are in a Division too high for their ability, b) We have too many players who have not played in organised Men's Football before all playing at the same time, and c) The Reserve Team are never going to be able to field a settled side each week because too many players throughout the club are unavailable every other week due to Wife/Girlfriend & Work Commitments...and that is something we are just going to have to put up with.