

Wednesday 5th April 2006 (6.15.p.m. Kick-Off)

Mercury Waltham Sunday League Division One Match at Enfield Playing Field (Pitch 13)

EDMONTON ROVERS	0	I.M.L. RED COW	4	HT 0-2
		Michael Fantis (35 mins.), Neil Wilson (40, 92 mins.), Andy Chapman (Pen.) (66 mins.)		

EDMONTON ROVERS LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10): Ozel OZERMAN (GK) (7); Stuart DORWARD (7½), Andrew WARMERDAM (7½), Paul WOOLSTON (7½), Terry MOORE (7½); Kris SPYROU (6½), Nick VERTIGANS (6½), JUNEKA JUNIOR (6), Chris 'Nugget' BEEDEN (6½), John BEASLEY (6½); Steve COKELL (6½) **Subs.:** Foysol AHMED (7), Tem ADIL (6½), Ritchie COPUES (Not Used), Darryl JOHNSON (Not Used)

I.M.L. RED COW'S LINE-UP: Hans MAHER (GK); Chris HUMPHREYS, Lee BONE, Marc POFFLEY, Paul GIROLAMI; Dan BURT, Michael FANTIS, Neil WILSON, Dom ALLUM; Andy CHAPMAN, Rob SYRETT
Subs.: Chris REYNOLDS, Lee NICHOLSON, Kai RAMSHAW

Referee: John STOCKMAN
Assistant Referees: Steve WILDGOOSE & Bill GUMBLE

Weather Conditions: Sunny but Cold

Attendance: 15



Factual Report (by Laurence Hughes):

We came into this, our penultimate League match of the season, in a position where two wins from our last two matches could possibly see us finish as high as third in the Division One table, but alternatively, two *defeats* could see us finish second from bottom and face possible relegation. Although it had been more or less confirmed that only the *bottom* club (Metroline Uniques) would actually be relegated, we didn't really want to take any chances and therefore made sure we fielded what we thought was a reasonably good side that should have been able to give title contenders I.M.L. Red Cow a decent game this time, unlike the 6-0 debacle back in January when we fielded a

bare eleven with about nine first-choice players missing. Indeed only four players from our starting line-up from this match played in that game back in January (Paul Woolston, Steve Cokell, Juneka Junior & Kris Spyrou), and once again it was our usual problem of not being able to field a settled side which was one of the main causes of *this* particular defeat. With regulars Derek Dorward, Peter Murphy, Paul Ellerker, Conor McGovern, Tony Speller & Colin Bester all missing for various reasons, we had to use four or five players who had hardly played at all this season, and even though they are good players, not knowing their team-mates names was definitely a hindrance.

With Manager Trevor Hughes away in Las Vegas attending Tony Speller's Wedding (along with forward Derek Dorward), skipper Stuart Dorward had to take over as Manager for *this* game, but things went reasonably smoothly for him *before* the match with nobody dropping out at the last minute and only one player being held up at work and subsequently having to miss the kick-off. That was Driving Instructor Foysol Ahmed, who got 'stuck in traffic'. (Maybe he was using Sat Nav and ended up behind a tractor somewhere ?). Kris Spyrou therefore replaced Foysol in the starting line-up on the right of midfield in a 4-5-1 formation which featured Stuart playing in an unfamiliar right-back role, but with the likes of Nick Vertigans, Chris 'Nugget' Beeden and John Beasley all in midfield, we had plenty of quality players who were capable of getting into attacking positions to support Steve Cokell. For the first 20 minutes of the match we gave I.M.L. a fairly even contest, which was what we had expected, as some of their most recent results had suggested they had a few injury problems and were 'knackered' from playing too many matches



in a short space of time because of their success in all three Cup competitions this season (in stark contrast to us of course).

However, they were actually only missing one first-choice player for this match in forward Nicky Marsh (according to 'Nugget', who knows all their players) and showed no lack of fitness or determination whatsoever, so we were soon up against it with our 17-year-old keeper Ozel Ozerman (who had been preferred to both Darryl Johnson and Simon Jackson for this match) having to make one or two good saves in the First Half as he carried on the form he showed on his debut against Europa in our previous match 3½ weeks ago. We held

out until the 35th minute though when I.M.L. skipper Michael Fantis put them 1-0 up with a close-range shot into the bottom corner after good build-up play by forwards Andy Chapman and Rob Syrett, both of whom were a bit too clever and sharp for our defenders on that occasion, although in general we coped with them very well for most of the half. However, we then went and conceded a second goal just five minutes later when another slick, fast passing move left our midfielders chasing shadows, but Syrett's shot was an obvious mis-hit which fell conveniently into the path of midfielder Neil Wilson, who toe-poked the ball in past the onrushing Ozel Ozerman instead of it being the rebound from Syrett's shot that he was initially anticipating.

We were therefore a bit unlucky to go off at Half-Time two goals down, but such was the strength of the side I.M.L. Red Cow were fielding, we knew there was little chance of us scoring three goals or more in the Second Half with the likes of Conor McGovern and Derek Dorward both missing. Nevertheless, we didn't give up and decided to push forward a bit more after the break, and particularly when Foysol Ahmed was brought on in the 61st minute for Kris Spyrou with Stuart Dorward pushing himself forward into midfield in a change to a 3-5-2 formation. In fact we actually created slightly more clear-cut chances than I.M.L. in the Second Half with Juneka Junior and Steve Cokell both going close with well-struck shots and Stuart missing a sitter himself with a scuffed effort straight at keeper Hans Maher when he had more time than he realised. That was in-between I.M.L. scoring a third goal in the 66th minute though, when midfielder Dan Burt was brought down in the area by the otherwise excellent Andrew Warmerdam for an obvious penalty which was converted by Andy Chapman in a manner which seemed to suggest he was toying with Ozel Ozerman's lack of reach in diving low to his left to try and keep the ball out of the bottom corner !?

'Oz' made another good save late on to deny substitute Chris Reynolds though, but I.M.L. made it 4-0 in the second minute of Injury Time (and with the last kick of the game) when Juneka Junior was caught in possession by Lee Nicholson, who then put Neil Wilson through for his second of the match with a good finish in off the far post.

4-0 definitely flattered I.M.L. Red Cow though, and maybe a 3-1 victory would have been a fairer reflection of the game, but it was clear that a lack of sharpness and match practice was our biggest problem and that was the obvious difference between the two sides as I.M.L. Red Cow were much quicker to the ball all round, having played twice or even three times a week during the past month whereas the large majority of our squad for this match had not kicked a ball for 'ages'...our last game having been way back on the 12th March. We did our best though, and as usual there was no arguing at the end although everybody was very quiet and a bit flat as we had been looking forward to giving I.M.L. a closer game. Unfortunately it was our lack of a Cup run this season that put paid to that, as the consequences of having to play once every three or four weeks at this stage of the season were plain to see, especially when none of our players play in Senior Saturday football any more and cannot keep their fitness levels up doing that.

'Murf's Alternative Report !!: There is no 'Murf Report' for this match as he was in Turin watching Juventus v. Arsenal.

[Click Here](#) for I.M.L. Red Cow's website.