

Sunday 17th August 2008

Pre-Season Friendly Match at the Ashton Playing Fields, Woodford Bridge

JUBILEE	2	EDMONTON ROVERS	2	HT 1-0
Carey (7 mins.), Gash (84 mins.)		Storm (Own Goal) (51 mins.) Dorward (73 mins.)		

JUBILEE'S LINE-UP: Phil CONNOLLY (GK); 'Chris', Danny BIMBOW, Spencer ALLRIGHT, Barry STORM; Darren COLE, Mark CAREY, Neil THOMPSON, Ben RUSSELL; Austin GASH, Joe BIMBOW **Subs.:** Robert DENTON, Danny IPHEEWAI, Luke MURPHY, 'Elton'

EDMONTON ROVERS LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10): Darryl JOHNSON (GK) (7); Terry MOORE (6½), Scott JENKINS (6½), Martin LOVEDAY (7); John BEASLEY (6½), Tem ADIL (6½), Danny HAGAN (6½), Steve COKELL (6½); Stuart DORWARD (6½); Danny GREEN (6½), Daniel DALEY (6½) **Sub.:** Tony KING (6½) (On at H-T for Beasley, then various 'roll-on, roll-off' substitutions thereafter).

Referee: John ARGUE

Weather Conditions: Sunny but Very Windy

Attendance: 11

Report (by Laurence Hughes): This match, the first of our Pre-Season Friendlies this Summer, was arranged at rather short notice, which perhaps not surprisingly meant that most of our players had already planned to do other things. Frustratingly, that included all of our prospective new players and also three of Manager Trevor Hughes's first-choices in defender Alan Barnard, midfielder Rob Brown and recently-crowned dual Player Of The Year Conor McGovern. However, although we only had 12 players available in total, they were all regulars from the end of last season with the exception of John Beasley, who was able to help us out again as he lived not far from the venue in Woodford.



Our opponents Jubilee though, a newly-formed team from the [East Herts Corinthian Sunday League](#), turned up with several substitutes and with some former Trent Park (Arkay) players in their line-up, so they were obviously going to give us a good test in this match, even though they had lost 5-2 to a Northmet (Riverside) XI in one of their other Pre-Season Friendlies.

In fact they took the lead after just 7 minutes when an inswinging corner from Mark Carey sailed over Steve

Cokell's head and into the net at the far post thanks to a huge gust of wind...and the crossbar being a foot too high (according to red-faced keeper Darryl Johnson). In fairness to D.J. though, the near gale-force wind certainly wasn't in the weather forecast that I watched on the Beeb a couple of hours before the match. They said it would be a nice sunny day with a light 5 m.p.h. breeze, but I spent virtually all of the match trying to keep the camera steady while almost being blown off my feet! Indeed the rest of the First Half was quite scrappy because of that with numerous free-kicks and players running around at 100 m.p.h., while both sides were guilty of poor finishing with Jubilee hitting a number of



shots straight at Darryl Johnson, and our players, especially later in the half, hitting shots high and wide from good positions. It therefore wasn't too much of a surprise that our equaliser early in the Second Half was another wind-affected effort as Steve Cokell's corner forced defender Barry Storm to head into his own net at the near post.

Both sides then had spells of pressure, but far too many players (including ours) were more interested in making a total mockery of the F.A.'s [Respect Campaign](#) by consistently arguing with Mr. Argue. Stuart Dorward was one of

the worst culprits (and in front of his Wife and 4-year-old son as well !), but then Captains are still allowed to 'bollock' the Ref aren't they ? Thankfully though, Stuart calmed down a bit in the 73rd minute when he put us 2-1 up with a close-range mis-hit 'bicycle kick' from Danny Green's cross, but he soon became frustrated again as we started missing more and more 'sitters' on the break as the Jubilee defence started leaving massive gaps at the back.

In fact they managed to equalise in the 84th minute with what was the 4th really scrappy goal of the game, this time from a scuffed free-kick from Austin Gash that crept into the bottom corner with Darryl Johnson unsighted. 2-2 was how it finished, and although we had the better chances and maybe should have won the game by a goal or two, it was a good work-out against a strong, fit and sometimes physical side who were of a similar standard and style of play to one or two teams that we played in Division One last season. However, it would have been useful to see how the likes of James Whittick and other new players would have coped, so in that respect it was a bit of a let-down that they couldn't play and we didn't really learn anything that we didn't already know. Roll on next week.

TREVOR HUGHES'S MANAGER'S REPORT

We played our first pre-season friendly on Sunday against Jubilee who are a newly formed team but were previously Trent Park (Arkay) who were a very good side. We could only manage a squad of 12 and Tony King started as substitute due to misreading Laurence's meeting instructions on the website. The team were all regular players from the end of last season together with John 'Junior' Beasley who is not re-signing for us despite the rumours. Unfortunately, a strong wind somewhat spoiled the game although both teams were trying to play good passing football. We went behind after 7 minutes when a wind assisted corner went into the far top corner of the net with goalkeeper Darryl Johnson claiming that the crossbar was too high as his excuse for watching it go over his head. Despite being against the wind we created the better chances but poor finishing meant that we went into half time still 1-0 down. The equaliser did come just 6 minutes into the second half when Steve Cokell's wind assisted corner was deflected into his own net by a Jubilee defender. In similar fashion to the first half we again created the better chances and missed them until Stuart Dorward mishit a Danny Green cross to give us the lead. Although Jubilee pressed forward for an equaliser they did not create many clear cut chances until a free kick on the edge of the area with 6 minutes to go. The forward appeared to totally miskick the ball but it bobbed past the wall into the bottom corner with Darryl seemingly unsighted. As it was a friendly a 2-2 draw was a reasonable start to the season but it would have been a very disappointing result if we had lost points in a league match due to poor finishing and soft goals conceded. On the positive side most players played a full 90 minutes and looked reasonably fit and it was a good opportunity to see players as the competition for places at the start of the season hots up with a 16 man squad likely for our next two friendlies.