SUNDAY 1ST APRIL 2001 | FIRST MATCH OF DOUBLE-HEADER (30 MINS EACH WAY) | * SUBSTITUTED

MERCURY WALTHAM SUNDAY LEAGUE (DIVISION 2) MATCH AT HOME TO LEA VALLEY ROYALS

KICK OFF 10.35 AM. (LEA VALLEY ROYALS LATE) — AT HAZELWOOD SPORTS GROUND

SCORE: EDMONTON ROVERS 1 LEA VALLEY ROYALS 4 — HALF-TIME: 1-1

TEAM		MARKS OUT OF 10	SCORERS
1. GK[1] Dave BAGNALL		6	
2. RB[9] Tony SPELLER		6	
3. LB[10] Steve BEASLEY (CAPTAIN)		6½	
4. RM[11] Paul REBAIRO		6	
5. SW[7] Dave DIETMAN		5½	
6. CM[3] Robin PRYKE		7	
7. CM[16] Marco ELLERKER		7	
8. CM[8] John BEASLEY	* (55 mins)	6½	
9. CF[4] Derek DORWARD		7	
10. CF[5] Stuart DORWARD		6½	5 mins,
11. LM[12] Lee OSBORN	* (26 mins)	6	
12. LM[14] Gary ODELL	* (26 mins)	6	
14. CM[18] Anuj BHARDWAJ	* (55 mins)	5½	
15. –[15] Paul ELLERKER		—	
16. –		—	
17. –		—	

OPPONENTS GOAL TIMES: TONY MORLEY (2, 48 mins), CARLO CASALI (46 mins), PAUL AMICO (50 mins)

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: L.HUGHES, T.HUGHES, R.BEEDEN, C.BEEDEN, T.BEEDEN, M.DEVIZIO

CROWD: 20 — REFEREE: JEFF TILL

CLUB LINESMAN: RON BEASLEY — REFEREE'S MARK (OUT OF 10): 8

BOOKINGS:

SENDING OFFS: —

WEATHER CONDITIONS: CLOUDY BUT MILD. ~~[illegible]~~ SLIGHT BREEZE DOWN PITCH.

STATE OF PITCH: DRY AND FLAT IN MIDDLE. SOFT AND BADLY CHURNED UP DOWN WINGS (WITH LONG GRASS)

Report: We came into this game with our confidence really low having failed to win in our previous five matches at Hazelwood and once again the state of the pitch did us no favours at all with the grass getting too long again and the wings badly churned-up after Broomfield's Double-Header on it the day before. (Enfield Council have now officially confirmed my suspicions that *rolling* Council pitches is not in their groundsmen's contracts !).

Not that many of our players were in the right frame of mind for April Fools Day *anyway* after yet more instalments of this season's off-the-field personal problems that might have a T.V. Soap Producer seriously considering using our club as a basis for a script !

At least Stuart Dorward managed to put *his* recent nightmare to the back of his mind to equalise within three minutes of Lea Valley Royals taking a not-unexpected second-minute lead, although maybe 20 pints of lager ? the night before helped him 'relax' enough to head in his brother Derek's excellent cross from 6 yards. In fact that really lifted our spirits and we played really well for the rest of the First Half and were unlucky not to go two or three goals up against a Lea Valley Royals side who were apparently fielding the strongest side they'd put out all season (according to ex-Rovers & Lea Valley Royals keeper Marcello Devizio, who was watching from the touchline).

Of course, *we* had key players missing again, including goalkeeper Stavros Elia, who had to attend Church in order to arrange his forthcoming wedding (from one 'Rovers Soap Opera' extreme to another !), and when our former defender Carlo Casali somewhat predictably blasted in a 'saveable' shot over Dave Bagnall's head to score a rare goal in the 46th minute our heads went down badly and we then conceded another two goals in quick succession which killed off the match.

After that it was just a case of giving recent signing Anuj Bhardwaj his debut in the last five minutes, although a 'quick run-out' it certainly *wasn't* as 'Nuj' 'plodded about' in midfield somewhere, much to the amusement of some of Lea Valley Royals players, and in the end it just became another one of those embarrassments that we get from time to time (remember Arnos Athletic ?) when opposing players and supporters 'play up for the camera' and we were just glad to get it all over with.