

Sunday 7th October 2007

Mercury Waltham Sunday League Division One Match at Hazelwood Sports Ground

EDMONTON ROVERS	0	Mc,KENZIE RANGERS	2	HT 0-1
		Madhvani (41 mins.), Karemo (56 mins.)		

EDMONTON ROVERS LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10): Ozel OZERMAN (GK) (6); Stuart DORWARD (6), Alan BARNARD (6½), Martin LOVEDAY (6½), Terry MOORE (6½); Leon Mc,KENZIE-Mc,KAY (6), Danny HAGAN (6½), Clark WILLIAMS (6), Steve COKELL (6); Conor Mc,GOVERN (6), Daniel DALEY (6) **Subs.:** Nick VERTIGANS (On for Daley 59 mins.) (6), Derek DORWARD (On for Mc,Govern 67 mins.) (6), Tony KING (On for Loveday 67 mins.) (6), Tem ADIL (Not Used), Darryl JOHNSON (GK) (Not Used)

Mc,KENZIE RANGERS' LINE-UP: David PAYNE; Christos CHRYSANTHOU, Chris GIBSON, Cos CONSTANTINAOU, Nick HOWARD; Chris VASILIOU, Nev NIYAZI, Lee DALY, Franky KAREMO, John HOLMES; Mani MADHVANI **Subs.:** Anthony DiCANIO (On at H-T for Holmes), Anthony AGROTIS (On for Vasiliou 67 mins), Leo CHARALAMBOUS (On for Niyazi 82 mins.)

Referee: Lee ADDISON

Weather Conditions: Warm & Mainly Sunny

Attendance: 19

**Factual Report
(by Laurence**

Hughes): Previous to this match, we had played Mc,Kenzie Rangers several times in the Summer 7-a-side League at the Southgate Hockey Centre over the past five years or so, but following their move this season into the Mercury Waltham Sunday League after a number of years playing in the vastly



inferior North London & South Herts Sunday League (where they finished third in the 7-team ! Premier Division [last season](#)), this was the first time we had ever played them at the 11-a-side game.

With Manager Trevor Hughes being good friends with Mc,Kenzies' Player-Secretary-Captain Nev Niyazi as a result of their business in the legal profession (Mc,Kenzies are a firm of Solicitors from Church Street in Edmonton), you would have thought he would have been eager to have been in charge for this match. However, Arsenal v. Sunderland (a 12.00.mid-day kick-off for the benefit of Setanta) put paid to that, so it meant another long trip down from Manchester for

'Director Of Football/Caretaker Manager Russell 'Tarby' Beeden for this one...and a Home match with opening and locking up jobs to be done to boot.

That meant a hectic pre-kick-off 30 minutes for Tarby as he sorted out who was going to do which jobs at the end of the match such as getting down the goalnets, clearing up rubbish off the touchlines and sweeping out the changing rooms, while he pondered whether to change Manager Hughes's designated starting line-up at the last minute following the late withdrawal of Paul Woolston with family commitments and Darryl Johnson turning up before the kick-off to volunteer to be a substitute goalkeeper. In the end, he kept the line-up the same, and with five substitutes having to be named because nobody else had dropped out of the 16, it was obvious somebody was going to get the hump at being left out. From what I could hear on the touchline underneath my camera position it sounded as if Derek Dorward was the least pleased, but I may be wrong? In general though, it was a good atmosphere before the game as we were fielding a stronger squad than the previous week with Conor Mc,Govern, Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay, Nick Vertigans and Martin Loveday all returning, and with Mc,Kenzie Rangers' results so far this season not being very impressive at all, we were very confident of gaining a victory, despite them beating us at 7-a-side more often than not over the years.

Mc,Kenzies though, are another one of these teams who turn up an hour before kick-off to do warm-ups on the pitch and really fire themselves up, and they were already out there doing so when 'Tarby' turned up, which showed their intentions. In fact we knew they were mad keen on fitness as Manager Trevor Hughes had seen some of their training sessions where they do 5 mile runs and 10 x 100-metre sprints in the space of about an hour (twice a week). Maybe I'm exaggerating, but you get my drift...we do not do any training whatsoever!

Although we started the match quite well in terms of possession and movement, it soon became clear that we were not going to have much time on the ball at all in this match, and for most of the First Half both sides cancelled each other out with hardly any clear-cut chances being created at all. We even had both sides changing their formations half-way through the half to counteract each other (with us going to a 3-5-2 to match their five in midfield), and up until the 40th minute there had only really been one decent attempt at goal from either side, this being a header from Mc,Kenzies lone forward Mani Madhvani early on which Ozel Ozerman managed to tip onto the bar. Despite that change in formation, we actually looked even less like scoring once we had done so, and it was Mc,Kenzies who took the lead in the 41st minute when Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay gave away a free-kick in a dangerous position for Nev Niyazi to whip into the 6-yard box where Madhvani got in front of Alan Barnard to head in past a static Oz.



At least we nearly hit back before Half-Time though when Conor Mc,Govern blasted a 25-yard free-kick against the crossbar, but that actually turned out to be our only decent shot at goal all match!

In the Second Half we

expected to get on top late on as surely Mc,Kenzies would tire playing at such a pace...but they didn't, unlike every other side we have played so far this season. Every time we got the ball it just turned into a hot potato thanks to the bone hard pitch with dew on top and Mc,Kenzies' players pressurising every first touch our players had all over the pitch. In fairness, they didn't create many chances either, but they just didn't make a single mistake at the back for the whole

90 minutes...unlike their other matches so far this season in which they (apparently) had been punished for every mistake made, particularly when they lost 4-0 to St. Margaretsbury the week before. In that match they actually created and wasted numerous chances, but this time they took the few chances they had, and they made the game safe half-way through the Second Half when midfielder Franky Karemo (who was probably their best player on the day) found himself in on goal after a quick break to hit a low shot which deflected off the boot of Danny Hagan and squirmed under Ozel Ozerman and in off the far post before Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay could get back and clear it off the line.

We then brought on all three substitutes for the remainder of the match for Daniel Daley (who then promptly went home) and then Martin Loveday and Conor Mc,Govern, both of whom had been ill (Loveday after too much alcohol the night before and Mc,Govern from a flu virus which had seen him lose over a stone in weight). However, Nick Vertigans, Derek Dorward and Tony King failed to make much of an impression either, unlike in other matches this season when bringing on two or three good substitutes had done the trick, and although we had some half-chances in the last 15 minutes, they all went high and wide and we just didn't look like scoring at all.

In fact Mc,Kenzies hung on quite comfortably for their 2-0 victory in the end, and it must have been a bit embarrassing for Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay, who turned down the chance to play for his namesake team in order to re-join us for this season. They were not necessarily better players than us though, they were just twice as fit and it made a massive difference because we no longer have midweek training sessions ourselves during the season. Next time we play them, we will just have to hope their defenders make some mistakes and we have the luck that other teams have had against them.