

* - SUBSTITUTED

SUNDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2000

LONDON F.A. SUNDAY JUNIOR CUP, SECOND ROUND MATCH AT HOME TO MITCHAM PARK ROYALS

KICK OFF 10.30 AM. (MITCHAM PARK ROYALS LATE & REF. INSISTING ON AT ENFIELD PLAYING FIELDS (PITCH 11)
(FOOTHOLES BEING FILLED IN!))

SCORE: EDMONTON ROVERS 3 MITCHAM PARK ROYALS 5 (OVER TIME) HALF-TIME: 1-1
FULL-TIME: 3-3

TEAM	MARKS OUT OF 10	SCORERS
1. GK ¹ Dave BAGNALL	6½	
2. RB ⁴ Tony SPELIER	INT. (87 mins) * 6½	
3. LB ¹⁰ Steve BEASLEY (CAPTAIN)	5½	
4. RM ⁹ Stuart DORWARD	INT. (72 mins) * 6½	62 mins,
5. SW ⁵ Dave DIETMAN	6	
6. CH ² Robin PRYKE	6½	
7. CM ⁷ Russell BEEDEN	INT. (110 mins) * 7	
8. CM ⁸ Marco EUERKER	7½	13 (PEN) mins.
9. CF ³ Derek DORWARD	6½	71 mins,
10. CF ¹⁶ Paul EUERKER	6½	
11. LM ⁶ John BEASLEY	7	
12. RM ¹⁴ Darren WALL	INT. (72 mins) * 6	
14. RB ¹⁷ Paul REBARO	INT. (87 mins) * 6	
15. CF ¹² Lexton HARRISON	INT. (110 mins) * 6	
16. -		
17. -		

OPPONENTS GOAL TIMES: GERARD GRISCTI (11, 123 mins), RORY STEVENS (22, 85 mins), MICHAEL WARD (106 mins)

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: L. HUGHES, G. ODELL, L. OSBORN, A. SPEAKMAN, 'SEROME', S. O'NEILL, I. BUCKLEY!

CROWD: 15 REFeree: MICHAEL BARRY

CLUB LINESMAN: TREVOR HUGHES REFEREES: MPTAL (OUT OF 10): 5

BOOKINGS: -

SENDING OFFS: -

WEATHER CONDITIONS: COOL AND CLOUDY (VERY OVERCAST). NO WIND

STATE OF PITCH: FAIRLY SOFT AND MUDDY WITH VERY LONG GRASS (AGAIN)

Report: This was one of those days when 'everything' went wrong (or almost everything), starting from even before the game kicked off when referee Michael Barry discovered a couple of large holes in the pitch and instructed us to 'find some dirt' to fill them or he would call the game off! In the meantime, Lee Osborn, Gary Odell & Daniel McIntyre were all suddenly being told by Manager Trevor Hughes that only three substitutes were allowed to be named in the London Cup rather than the five permitted in the Mercury Waltham League, so that gave them the 'hump' as it meant there was no chance of a game for them. Indeed poor Gary Odell then had to walk all the way to the groundsman's hut at the Donkey Lane end (about a mile away!?) to get some 'dirt', although at least the groundsman came out and filled the holes in himself (while explaining that they had been caused by 'Freddie the Fox'!). Of course Mitcham Park Royals were oblivious to all this, as they didn't turn up until nearly 10.30, by which time Trevor Hughes then realised he had to act as linesman yet again with Ron Beasley and Tim Beeden unavailable and about 10 'others' (i.e. substitutes, club members & supporters) making up feeble excuses to get out of doing the job!

However, once the game got under way (20 minutes late), we played well enough but squandered a number of good chances before the Dorward brothers put us 3-1 up half-way through the second half and that should have been good enough to see us through, especially as we were fielding a full-strength side (apart from newly-signed keeper Dave Bagnall who was making his debut with Stavros Elia away on a school trip). Indeed Mitcham Park Royals had apparently not won a match since last Christmas and had almost folded up at the start of this season, but they still managed to cause our defence plenty of problems, especially down the left where Steve Beasley was given a 'fearful roasting' by their Maltese winger Sean Griscti (they'd presumably read Steve's website profile!) and with sweeper Dave Dietman struggling to cope with him as well, that was the main reason we 'threw the game away' in the end, although in hindsight the decision to bring off Stuart Dorward for a 'rest' as soon as we went 3-1 up didn't help.

Although Mitcham Park Royals were a lot better than we expected, we were undoubtedly guilty of 'over-confidence' in this match and this result (losing our unbeaten record so far this season) has really brought us back down to earth!

To make matters even worse, our day was then rounded off when we got down the pub an hour later than normal (because of Extra-Time and the late kick-off) only to find all the 'free food' had already been scoffed by The Accies (mainly 'Sprouty'?) and various other Edmonton Sunday League teams!