

Sunday 24th March 2024

Barnet Sunday League North London Challenge Cup (Group E) Match at Enfield Playing Fields (Pitch 3)

Kick-Off: 10.25 a.m. (Referee in a rush to start !)

Result: EDMONTON ROVERS..... 1 NISSI II 3 **Half-Time:** 1-3

SHIRT NUMBER	TEAM (4-3-3)		GOAL TIMES
1	GK	Josh WAKEFORD	
18	RB	Tobi CHARLES	21 Mins.
5	RCB	Fergus MURRAY	
2	LCB	Chris JORDANOU	
4	LB	Max FRANCIS	
19	CM	Frankie GEORGE	OFF HT/BACK ON 84
3	CM	Charlie SAVAGE (Captain)	
17	CM	Archie MADDEN-BRINE	OFF 84
11	RCF	Harry DORWARD	OFF 66
16	CF	Harvey ANTONIOU	OFF HT
9	LCF/CF HT	Myreon KEANE	
SUBSTITUTES			
7	LCF	Christian ELLIS	ON HT
14	CM	Tairique HARRISON	ON HT
20	RCF	Gianni DIPO	ON 66
OWN GOALS Scored For Us:			

PLAYER-MANAGER: Josh Wakeford

CLUB LINESMEN: Not Required By Referee

ATTENDANCE: 31

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: Laurence Hughes, Bob Cleary, Roderick Bennett, Mike Jordanou, Tim Wakeford, Verity Wakeford, Lorna Bennett, Louis Bennett, Sarah Bartlett, John Murray, Dele Alaoye, Dapo Alaoye

REFEREE: George Yerosimou

BOOKINGS: Marios Kalli (Nissi) (Foul... 32 Mins.), Frankie George (Foul... 44 Mins.), Fergus Murray (Foul... 74 Mins.),

Daniel Sinclair (Nissi) (Retaliation... 74 Mins.), Kypros Coudounas (Nissi) (Foul... 88 Mins.)

SENDING-OFFS: None

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Mainly cloudy with cold blustery wind across pitch.

STATE OF PITCH: Fairly dry. Badly churned-up from weeks of rain. Grass cut, but still too long !

UNAVAILABILITY: (12 Players): Jack Vanvynck, Paddy Baynes (Social Commitments the night before/No Show), Omari Vermont, Eddie Cox (Other Commitments), Rashawn Bennett-Dyer, Jordan Amusan, Daniel Schwartz-Gee, Natan Pawlaczyk (All Injured), Sam Pritchett (Working), Stuart Dorward (Away), Michael Menzies (Playing Youth Football), Ritchie Redgrave (GK) (Vets Football)

OPPONENTS' LINE-UP (4-2-3-1): 1. Alexi Georgiou (GK); 2. Markos Chrysanthou (RB), 5. Leonidas Christodoulou (RCB), 18. Marios Kalli (LCB), 20. Jack Larkin (LB); 21. Nicholas Vachou (RCM), 26. Marinos Eracleous (LCM); 7. Alexander Chrysanthou (RM...Captain), 17. Rishaad Virgo (ACM), 9. Gjin Lekgegaj (LM); 11. Kyriacos Kyriacou (CF)
Subs. 3. Giuseppe Falzone, 32. Daniel Sinclair 6. Kypros Coudounas (All Used)

OPPONENTS' GOALSCORERS: Larkin (8, 41 Mins.), Kyriacou (43 Mins.)

MATCH REPORT... This was the first of two Group matches for us in the Barnet Sunday League's North London Challenge Cup, a competition brought in to give teams throughout all eight divisions some extra matches this season if they had been running out of fixtures. Our opponents were mid-table Division Six side Nissi II, who had beaten full-strength Division Four leaders Shentree Athletic 4-0 in their first Group match and turned up for this one 90 minutes before the kick-off for their pre-match warm-up with a stronger-than-usual side. With 25% of our team turning up late or not at all again, we didn't start well and found ourselves a goal behind after just 8 minutes, but it was a controversial one as Referee Yerosimou decided to give the goal for defender Jack Larkin's header in the 6-yard box crossing the line when apparently 'it hadn't'....because our skipper Charlie Savage had 'deliberately' handballed it off there with his arm, which would of course had been a sending-off if the Referee had chosen that option. That would have left us down to 10 men for 82 minutes of the match, so at only one goal down so early on instead, we still had a good chance of getting back into the game and we managed that in the 21st minute when the versatile Tobi Charles, who was playing at right-back in an unfamiliar 4-3-3 formation, hit a rather scuffed low shot through a crowd of players into the bottom corner to make it 1-1. We then had a goal disallowed for offside against Charlie Savage when he tapped in the rebound from a Harry Dorward free-kick in the 32nd minute and we had more bad luck when Nissi went 2-1 up nine minutes later from a Larkin tap-in after he himself had looked offside from a similar position to Charlie following a scramble from a free-kick. In fairness to the Referee he was right in line for both incidents, but that didn't stop some of our supporters verbally abusing him for the rest of the game, making it a 'nasty' niggly match thereafter which really didn't suit our far more skilful players at all. Indeed we came off at Half-Time 3-1 down from another goal where our players and supporters were manically appealing for offside when it probably wasn't as Kyriacos Kyriacou scored with a clever lob two minutes before the break, while Frankie George was lucky not to get sent off for a foul on the same player a minute later. The Second Half saw us bring on three substitutes for a change when in recent matches we have only had one or none at all, but it made no difference as a very fired-up Nissi side defended in numbers and were much more well-organised at the back than most teams we had played in Division Five this season, therefore easily holding on to their lead.