

Sunday 19th October 2008

London F.A. Sunday Intermediate Cup Second Round Match at Riverside Lands, Dukes Meadows, Chiswick

OLYMPIA	3	EDMONTON ROVERS	2	HT 2-0
'DeRose (4 mins), Hunte (32 mins.), Denniston (81 mins.)		T.Brown (64 mins.), Hunte (Own Goal) (84 mins.)		

OLYMPIA'S LINE-UP: Emeku IZUNDU (GK); Dean FOY, Sacha CLARKE, Dale HAYNES, Dean GIBSON; Lance HUNTE, Spencer DENNISTON, Paul ALLEN, Mykel MORTLOCK; Luke HAYNES, Reice DeROSE **Subs.:** Rory WILSON (On for L.Haynes 61 mins.), Peter HUGGARD (On for Allen 63 mins.)

EDMONTON ROVERS LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10): Darryl JOHNSON (GK) (6½); Terry MOORE (6), Alan BARNARD (5), Paul WOOLSTON (5); Tem ADIL (5½), Rob BROWN (6½), Stuart DORWARD (6½), Steve COKELL (5); Terry BROWN (6½); Jamie MARTIN (5½), Daniel DALEY (6½) **Subs.:** Vernon 'Kizza' NXUMALO (On for Martin 23 mins.) (6½), Tony KING (On for Adil 37 mins.) (5½), Martin LOVEDAY (Not Used)

Referee: Leonid RAIHMAN (Hungary)

Weather Conditions: Light Rain, then mainly sunny

Attendance: 14

Report (by Laurence Hughes):

Despite the long journey to Chiswick and it being a difficult venue to find, we still managed to field a squad of 14 good players for this match who all turned up in good time for the kick-off. That was quite a feat when in previous seasons when we have had to travel vast distances in the London Cup competitions, we have invariably fielded a bare eleven with numerous key players missing, and with us knowing in advance that Dukes Meadows was even worse than Enfield Playing Fields in terms of long walks from the changing rooms to whatever pitch we were on, it was quite surprising that we did not have to contend with a load of feeble excuses



from players wanting to drop out. Undoubtedly a 5-0 win in our last match two weeks ago helped ! This time, the only first-choice players absent were Conor Mc Govern (working in Birmingham) and the injury-jinxed Danny Hagan, who had severely damaged an ankle falling down a pot-hole as soon as he got out of his car at training in midweek...thereby forcing us to cancel the session because it left us with only four players there !

With our opponents Olympia (from the [Senior Amateur Reserve Division](#) of the Sportsmans Sunday League in South-West London) having lost both of their matches played so far this season, we were therefore in a positive frame of mind when we stepped onto the pitch, but when the whistle went, it soon became apparent that we had a number of players in our line-up who had played the day before and celebrated their victories too much afterwards or had been to all-night parties. That saw Olympia take the lead after just four minutes when their big centre forward Reice DeRose (who towered over the rest of our players) headed in a perfect cross from Luke Haynes after a good quick move. The rest of the First Half was then fairly even as Olympia competed for every ball and made it difficult for us on a hard pitch which was wet on top after a light shower which had not been in the weather forecast. Yet another match where I had to put the rain mac on the camera ! Their second goal in the 32nd minute was highly fortunate though, as Hunte drilled a right-wing cross into the far top corner over Darryl Johnson's head. That was how it stayed until Half-Time, but we had played poorly in the First Half with several things going

wrong for us...firstly with forward Jamie Martin having to come off after just 23 minutes with a hip injury (which he had come into the match with after falling over when pissed on Friday night ?), then midfielder Tem Adil asking to come off after 37 minutes because he had only had one hour's sleep !

At least substitutes Vernon 'Kizza' Nxumalo and Tony King both seemed to be a bit more lively though, and that saw us get on top early in the Second Half as Olympia's players started tiring already. We really should have scored before we pulled a goal back in the 64th minute thanks to Terry Brown's deflected shot, but it was after that that we really squandered some great chances with



Kizza and Stuart Dorward the biggest culprits, while Olympia's keeper Emeku Izundu made a number of half-decent saves, despite being a mixture of Rene Higuita and David James in the lookalike stakes as far as his style of goalkeeping was concerned. In fact when he came over after the match to ask for a DVD, Izundu claimed he was a 40-year-old Austrian and had played for Rapid Vienna ! No sign of that on [Google Search](#) of course.

We were also getting frustrated by Hungarian Referee Leonid Raihman continually blowing for offside against our forwards when (because he Referees in the A.F.A. Leagues on Saturdays) he was not using Club Linesmen, although most of his decisions did seem to be correct. Daniel Daley didn't think so though, and ended up getting booked for dissent in the 79th minute. Our indiscipline then cost us just two minutes later when slack zonal marking from a corner (See picture left) allowed Olympia skipper Spencer Denniston a free header which he powered in to put them 3-1 up, but there was still time for us to create plenty more chances to send the game into Extra-Time or even win it in 90 minutes, but we only managed to take one of them when a good run and low cross from Kizza forced defender Sacha Clarke into an Own Goal in the 84th minute, so we therefore ended up losing 3-2 when a

fairer reflection of the game would have been a 6-3 win to us on the number of clear-cut chances created, although we were extremely dodgy at the back and Olympia actually had far more shots on target than us. We did play much better in the Second Half, but Manager Trevor Hughes's initial Marks Out Of 10 were all low apart from Daniel Daley, who seemed to be the only one of our players in decent shape fitness-wise on the day, although he did go down with cramp towards the end. Even Rob and Terry Brown were well below par, while Stuart Dorward had to go home in his kit afterwards because he was 'too knackered' to climb up the stairs leading to the changing rooms...a 'boat-house' on the banks of the River Thames. Here was proof that just one week without a game and players continually not being able to attend training really does make a difference, as Olympia were nowhere near as good as teams we face in Division One of the Mercury Waltham Sunday League each week, and it was a real waste of a chance to progress in this competition for once, having been knocked out in the First Round by the eventual winners in four of the past five seasons. Olympia will not be joining that list though, as unbelievably they folded up before the next round was played...evidently due to continual defeats in their League following this match ! That just shows how poor we were !

TREVOR HUGHES'S MANAGER'S REPORT

We travelled to Chiswick for our London Cup tie against Olympia and a squad of 14 arrived with no last minute cry offs. We were confident after a 5-0 win in our last match and relatively few team changes with Jamie Martin replacing Conor McGovern and Paul Woolston returning in defence so Stuart Dorward could move into midfield to replace Danny Hagan. However, we fell behind after just 4 minutes when a deep cross was headed in at the far post by an unmarked forward. Olympia had a 40 year old Austrian goalkeeper named Izundu who was extremely erratic and caused us to anticipate an equaliser every time we attacked. Unfortunately, it was our keeper, Darryl Johnson who made the crucial error misjudging a deep cross which sailed into the top corner to put us 2-0 behind. Both Jamie Martin and Tem Adil had to come off in the first half using up two of our substitutions and limiting the options for any tactical changes. Nevertheless, we pressed forward in the second half and Terry Brown pulled a goal back after 64 minutes following good work by Daniel Daley. Both Terry and Kizza hit the post before we fell 3-1 behind from an unmarked header at a corner but Kizza's low cross was turned in for an own goal to reduce the deficit to 3-2 with 6 minutes to go. Stuart Dorward was denied by the eccentric keeper in the last minute and Daniel and Kizza were caught offside several times when they would otherwise have been clean through. It was a very disappointing result against a team who were decent but certainly not better than us.