

Sunday 21st March 2004

Mercury Waltham Sunday League (Division 4) Match at Albany Park (Pitch 6)

EDMONTON ROVERS RESERVES	0	ROSEMILL RESERVES	0	HT 0-0
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Edmonton Rovers Reserves Line-Up (with Marks out of 10): Russell BEEDEN (GK) (7); Lee OSBORN (7), Matt STEELL (7), Scott ROBERTSON (7), Terry DELLER (7); Leon Mc,KENZIE-Mc,KAY (6), FoysoL AHMED (7½), Peter MURPHY (6½), Barry MATTHEWS (6); Lexton HARRISON (6), Mashood BURAHÉE (6) **Subs.:** Brian KAMUTEKU (6), Jerome HARRISON (6), Ali AHMED (6)

Rosemill Reserves' Line-Up: No Team Details

Referee: Kevin HUGHES

Weather Conditions: Very Strong Blustery Wind

Attendance: ?

Report (By Russell 'Tarby' Beeden !): Another Sunday and of course it was the usual phone-round on Saturday afternoon. Everything was going well with me going to manage the First Team as Trevor was away and Mark doing the Reserves as usual, but this being Rovers things are never that simple. Mark phoned me to tell me he was sick and couldn't make it on Sunday leaving me to take over the Reserves and a combination of Stu, Lol and Tim (yes that is correct I *did* manage to get him out of bed !!!!) doing the First Team. The next problem was to try and persuade Billy to go in goal for the Reserves as Simon was injured, this all seemed done and dusted at about 18:00 Saturday night after having had a chat with him but to my utter horror after waking on Sunday morning and seeing that I had received a text at 03:00:59 I feared the worst. 'Russell...cant make it today', Bill' the message read. AGHHHH. I had to think quick, but there was only one solution to this problem...yes that's right, when a goalkeeping hero is needed there is only one person you can call upon...THE FAT CAT. Last seen in goal for the First Team in their 2-1 victory over Rangers in the 2002-2003 season, the FAT CAT was ready for action.

Having got to Albany Park and been abused by the lady who opens the changing rooms about how we could be playing being that it was Mothering Sunday (bloody women...we give them one day of freedom and they *still* moan !!!), we found that there was a gale force wind blowing around our very open pitch. After putting up the nets with Scott and Ossie (cheers boys) and everybody nearly turning up on time with a few exceptions (Leon, Barry as usual, and a Reserve Team late time record by Myron recorded at about 11:10), the first half was a dire affair. We played with the wind and hardly created a thing and instead of passing the ball on the ground we were just hitting long balls through to Lex and Mash that were either going through to the goalie or catching our forwards offside. The only decent effort I can remember was a shot by Leon that went close. Up the other end the FAT CAT was bored with Rosemill only having one shot which was blazed over. After having words at half time we were prepared for an onslaught from Rosemill and to give the boys credit we did defend well with the FAT CAT making one great save having been left one on one. There was not much to report in the second half apart from one or two scares...the FAT CAT letting a wind assisted free kick by the Rosemill keeper bounce an inch over the bar ! If it had gone in it wouldn't have counted anyway because it was an indirect kick of course I didn't know this !!!!) and one complete classic Rovers moment (oh how I wished this could have been captured on video) when midway through the second half a Rosemill midfielder was through on goal and as he was just about to shoot he completely lost his balance and just fell arse over tit and while laying on the ground having a tantrum he picked up his boot and threw it over his shoulder just as Ossie was walking by ! WHACK...straight into Ossie's face. CLASSIC ! Luckily Brian was there to stop Ossie who was just about to deck the guy with one of his power punches !!!!

Overall this was an awful game with the elements not helping (the ball spent more time off the pitch than on) but give Rosemill credit they did perform much better than they had in the cup semi final. With both Leon and Lex not having their best games we didn't create much and 0-0 was the correct result. Man of the match was FoysoL Ahmed who improves every week. A big thanks to the boys who ran the line (Brian who did it most of the game, Ali who did it for all of minute and didn't have a clue and Mash who I had to shout at while he was running to the halfway line just as Rosemill were taking a free kick midway in our half ????)

We now have a couple of weeks off before the cup final so lets see everybody at training so we can practice zonal marking and other things.

UP THE ROVERS.