

Sunday 23rd September 2007

London F.A. Sunday Intermediate Cup Second Round Match at Hazelwood Sports Ground

<b>EDMONTON ROVERS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>SOUTH WEST SOLDIERS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>(A.E.T.)</b>
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Edmonton Rovers won 4-3 on penalties

Daley (14, 90 mins.),  
S.Dorward (97 mins.)

T.Cretella (8 mins.),  
Bell (48 mins.),  
Davies (110 mins.)

HT 1-1  
FT 2-2

**EDMONTON ROVERS LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10):** Ozel OZERMAN (GK) (7); Stuart DORWARD (7½), Alan BARNARD (8½), Paul WOOLSTON (7½), Martin LOVEDAY (8); Tem ADIL (7), Danny HAGAN (7), Clark WILLIAMS (7½), Nick VERTIGANS (7½); Leon Mc,KENZIE-Mc,KAY (7), Daniel DALEY (8) **Subs.:** Stuart BYHURST (On for Adil 67 mins) (7), Tony KING (On for Vertigans 106 mins.) (7), Tony SPELLER (Not Used)

**SOUTH WEST SOLDIERS LINE-UP:** (Couldn't read their Secretary's writing on the Ref's Teamsheet !) Ricky STEPHENSON (GK); Vasili KALAMATUSIS, Harry APICELLA, Laurence ENTICKLAD ?, Alex CRETELLA; Tom DAVIES, Tom BELL, Ian ANDERSON, Richard SHAKES ?; R.J. ? THOMAS, Teo CRETELLA **Subs.:** Sasha GUY ?, Alexi ALLI ?

**Referee:** Simon CUDNER

**Weather Conditions:** Sunny & Very Windy

**Attendance:** 17

**Factual Report (by Laurence Hughes):** Having received a Bye in the First Round of this competition (along with virtually everybody else), we found ourselves facing Raynes Park/Wimbledon-based South West Soldiers for this Second Round match in what was to be our first game at



Hazelwood with ourselves in charge of the changing rooms following Enfield Council's cost-cutting decision during the Summer to do away with their groundsmen for Sunday mornings. Although we still had to pay the same pitch hire charges, it was far more preferable to do the extra work at Hazelwood ourselves than end up playing all our Home matches at the 'nightmare' that is Enfield Playing Fields, even though we were anticipating problems with having to sweep out the changing rooms for other mens' teams over there, not being given keys to the car park and finding things not working. As it happened, we had no problems at all on this occasion, as Martin Loveday volunteered to turn up at 9.15.a.m. to help me unload the car (from Connaught Gardens), unlock the changing rooms and put the nets up, there were no other matches being

played over there anyway, and our opponents, when they finally turned up at 10.20.a.m. (for the 10.30.a.m. kick-off), for some reason decided not to use the changing rooms (or showers afterwards) and get changed by the side of the pitch instead...as if that was the done thing every week in their League ?

It would be surprising if it **was** though, as they were in the [Senior Amateur Division](#) (i.e. the top Division) of the Sportsmans Sunday League in South-West London, this being a very strong League in which most of the teams in their top Division normally enter the London F.A. Sunday Challenge Cup (for the top teams in London). However, this was actually their first match of the season as their League do not arrange many fixtures during September, so that was obviously a big advantage for us, although we were nowhere near at full-strength with the likes of Conor Mc,Govern (Flu), Steve Cokell (Working), Derek Dorward (Working), Robin Pryke (Working), Terry Moore (Away for the weekend) and several other squad members all missing.

That gave teenagers Tem Adil and goalkeeper Ozel Ozerman another chance in the starting line-up, while Paul Woolston, Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay and Daniel Daley all returned after missing the previous week's Extra-Time victory against St. Mary's in the Roy Bailey Challenge Cup.

It was South West Soldiers who took an early lead though, when after just 8 minutes a fast break down the right saw midfielder Tom Bell get over a good low cross for Teo Cretella to tap in at the far post , and although we had a strong wind behind us in the First Half, we found these opponents a much tougher proposition than what we had faced so far this season as they were younger, fitter and stronger and seemed to be much better organised at the back. However, Daniel Daley did manage to equalise in the 14th minute when he was left unmarked in the 6-yard box to volley in one of many expertly-taken wind-assisted corners by Nick Vertigans (See picture below), and we were a bit unlucky not to score from two or three other clear-cut chances thereafter. South West Soldiers were probably the better side in the First Half though as we struggled to get our passing going at times, and the first 45 minutes were more memorable for three bizarre bookings by Referee Cudner, who presumably had an assessor in the meagre crowd of 17 (which included Nugget's Pit-Bull Terrior-type dog and a 15-year-old Somali kid who sat down on our touchline at the start, thinking we were going to give him a game...or was he one of Daniel Daley's mates ?). These bookings were for Danny Hagan apparently kicking out at an opponent (fair enough probably, although hardly any of us saw it), Martin Loveday doing a supposedly deliberate handball on the half-way line when it just hit him from 3 yards away, and strangest of all, a yellow card for South West Soldiers' defender Vasili Kalamatousis after he was found to be wearing jewellery, these all being infringements which players are normally allowed to get away with in Sunday League football.

With us kicking towards the far end and against an increasingly strong wind in the Second Half, we were rather fearing the worst and thought it would be all 'backs to the wall' defending, especially after South West Soldiers went into a 2-1 lead just three minutes after the break with a good finish from Tom Bell, who was clearly their best player. However, he was then surprisingly substituted with blisters shortly afterwards, thereby giving us the initiative, and

with us  
bringing on  
Stuart  
Byhurst for  
Tem Adil in  
the 67th  
minute and  
South West  
Soldiers  
lack of  
match  
practice  
starting to  
show, we  
then  
dominated  
the rest of

the Second Half and absolutely 'battered' their defence, but they threw bodies in the way of numerous shots, their stand-in keeper Ricky Stephenson (an outfield player apparently) made some excellent saves, and several of our players send shots high or wide when they should have



hit the target. As with the previous two weeks though, we didn't give up, and this time we managed to equalise in the 4th minute of injury time to send the game into Extra-Time as Daniel Daley

scored his second of the match after a scramble in the area from Paul Woolston's free-kick. We then continued to look the better side in Extra-Time, and when Stuart Dorward put us 3-2 up in the 97th minute after running on to Daniel Daley's through ball, South West Soldiers looked to be dead and buried, especially as Alan Barnard, Paul Woolston and Martin Loveday were all having excellent games for us defensively and not giving them many clear-cut chances. However, they managed to make it 3-3 in the second period of Extra-Time with a precise low cross-shot into the bottom corner from Tom Davies for which we were not at fault at all, and we eventually had to face our first Penalty Shoot-Out (in a First Team match) for about 20 years !

Given our current record of missing penalties in normal time in recent matches and us having the diminutive Ozel Ozerman in goal, it didn't look very promising for us, but thankfully our normal penalty taker Nick Vertigans had been substituted in Extra-Time for Tony King to come on, so at least he didn't have to take one !

In fact South West Soldiers didn't seem to be all that confident either, and both sets of players pleaded with Referee Cudner to have the Penalty Shoot-Out at the 'cow-shed end' so that all the shots ballooned high and wide would just hit the changing room wall and rebound back to them for the next kick to be taken. Instead though, Mr. Cudner insisted on having the penalties taken at the other end into the teeth of a gale which ought to have favoured the goalkeepers.

However, Stuart Dorward, Paul Woolston, Clark Williams and Danny Hagan all stepped up to drill superbly-taken spot-kicks past the previously impressive Stephenson, who then blotted his copy-book by blasting his own spot-kick wide, leaving our own keeper Ozel Ozerman to become the hero by diving to his left to beat away South West Soldiers' substitute Alexi Alli's cleanly-struck 5th penalty and give us a 4-3 shoot-out victory and a rare manic celebration to boot.

Having been knocked out in the First Round of London Cup competitions in the First Round by the eventual Winners or Runners-Up too many times to mention in the last 10 years, this was indeed a rarity, and it all helped to put our players in the right frame of mind for their post-match clearing-up jobs as part of the new Home match at Hazelwood routine in helping me out with things. When I opened the green dirty kit sack in my kitchen three hours later though, I found all the kit turned the wrong way out. Shirts, shorts, socks...everything. Apparently, Manager Trevor Hughes said in his Pre-Match Team Talk 'I want all the dirty kit put in the green sack and turned **inside** out'. The players evidently looked at him thinking 'why?'. Of course he meant to say 'I want all the dirty kit turned the **right** way out'...a job I have always done myself in the changing rooms to avoid mud being spilt on my kitchen floor just before putting the kit in the washing machine.

Fortunately though, this was the only thing that went wrong for us on what was a hugely

successful day in more ways than one. We even had a record amount of subs paid in one day...thanks to Stuart Dorward actually finding a cash machine in working order !  
We also had more good players wanting to join us (or re-join us), while this was probably the first time we have won our opening three matches of a season for about 20 years...something I will look up later. Long may it continue.

#### **TREVOR HUGHES'S MANAGER'S REPORT**

Last week's performance against St Mary's was a real boost for our confidence as we came back from 3-0 down to win 5-3 whilst playing some excellent football. As usual there were a number of forced team changes for this week's London Cup tie but the strength of our squad this season meant that we could bring Paul Woolston, Nick Vertigans, Daniel Daley and Leon McKenzie-McKay into the starting line up and still name three good substitutes. We knew very little about our opponents, South West Soldiers, other than the fact that they were in the Premier Division of their league. They started the match at a high pace and scored an excellent goal after 8 minutes. Our recent experience of going behind stood us in good stead as there was no arguing and we were level after 14 minutes through a Daniel Daley volley from Nick Vertigans' corner. The game was a good standard and played in a good spirit but the referee then had a strange few minutes issuing yellow cards to Danny Hagan and Martin Loveday - apparently his first ever, as well as a South West Soldiers player for the 'offence' of failing to take his jewellery off. Perhaps our friend Mr Wildgoose could explain what law of the game required this to be a caution. We had felt that we were the better side in the first half but again went behind just 3 minutes into the second half through another good move and finish. There were chances at both ends throughout the second half but their keeper was definitely the busier pulling off several fine saves. However, we kept trying and were rewarded in the 94<sup>th</sup> minute when Paul Woolston's free kick was parried and Daniel Daley stabbed home a dramatic equaliser. We finally took the lead in the first half of extra time when Stuart Dorward finished well from Daley's through ball but unlike last week a killer goal didn't come. Another equaliser with 10 minutes left made it 3-3 and again it was an excellent goal which gave our defence no chance. Volunteers were now needed for penalties. Two goal centre forward Daniel Daley came off the pitch saying 'I don't take penalties' and one or two others didn't look too keen. However, I found five to come forward and Stuart Dorward, Paul Woolston, Danny Hagan and Clark Williams all scored comfortably. The South West Soldiers keeper, who was apparently usually an outfield player blazed his penalty over and a fine save from their next kick made Ozel Ozerman the hero as we ran out 4-3 winners on penalties.