

\* SUBSTITUTIONS

SUNDAY 13TH JANUARY 2002  
LONDON F.A. SUNDAY JUNIOR CUP, THIRD ROUND MATCH AWAY TO STEELES

\* AT HACKNEY MARSHES

KICK OFF 10.50 AM (REFEREE LATE)

SCORE: STEELES 3 EDMONTON ROVERS 2 (AFTER EXTRA TIME) HALF-TIME SCORE: 0-1 FULL-TIME SCORE: 2-2

TEAM	MARKS OUT OF 10	SCORERS
1. GK <sup>1</sup> Stavros ELIA	8	
2. RB <sup>2</sup> Robin PRYKE	7	
3. LB <sup>3</sup> Steve BEASLEY (CAPTAIN)	7	
4. RM <sup>5</sup> Paul EUERKER	7	
5. SW <sup>9</sup> Tony SPELTER	7	
6. CM <sup>4</sup> Paul HOOLSTON	7	
7. CM <sup>10</sup> Marco EUERKER	6½	
8. CM <sup>11</sup> Stuart DORWARD	7½	46 mins,
9. CF <sup>8</sup> Steve COKELL	7	29 mins,
10. CM <sup>7</sup> Derek DORWARD	7	
11. LM <sup>6</sup> John BEASLEY	8	
12. CF <sup>12</sup> Conor McGOVERN	7	
14. LB <sup>15</sup> Lee OSBORN	6½	
15. RM <sup>14</sup> Paul REBARRO	7	
16. - <sup>16</sup> Scott ROBERTSON	-	
17. - <sup>17</sup> Gary ODELL	-	

OPPOSITION GOAL TIMES: LEO MOYNIHAN (65 (PEN), 93 mins), JACK MC NICHOL (105 mins)

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: L. HUGHES, T. HUGHES, R. BEEDEN

CLUB LINESMAN: RON BEASLEY

REFEREE: M. ROPER

BOOKINGS: STEVE GUISE (1st time), MUS AKINJOBi (2nd time) (14 mins)

REFEREE'S MARK (OUT OF 10): 8

SENDING OFFS: STEVE BEASLEY (PENALTY BECAUSE HANDBALL) (65 mins)

WEATHER CONDITIONS: CLOUDY AND OVERCAST, STRAY CLOUDS, NO WIND.

FLAT WITH GRASS CUT, BUT SOFT (LIKE GLUE!)

**Report:** Thanks to the information we found on various websites, we knew that Steeles were top of the Camden Sunday League Premier Division and had won 13-0 and 9-1 in the two previous rounds of this competition, so we expected a tough match and therefore fielded a full-strength (and sober) side in order to deal with it.

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However, we certainly didn't expect Steeles to be better than the likes of Upshire Coach & Horses and Broxbourne Rangers, especially as the Camden Sunday League only has two Divisions compared to the Mercury Waltham Sunday League's seven. Unfortunately for us though, Steeles turned out to be arguably the fittest side we had ever played whilst they matched us for skill and ability as well, so with a number of our players predictably suffering from their usual Christmas/New Year excesses and not having kicked a ball for three weeks, we were never really likely to reproduce the sort of form we showed when we 'demolished' St. Mary's in our previous match just before Christmas.

However, we certainly had enough time to warm up before the kick-off as referee Roper somehow got lost trying to find Hackney Marshes and the game eventually started 20 minutes late. The delayed start though also allowed Manager Trevor Hughes to get one of his Christmas presents out...namely an A4 Magnetic Tactics Board (from brother & Club Secretary Laurence Hughes!), but despite the 'piss-taking' from our players that greeted the sudden appearance of such an item, it actually seemed to work as we got our tactics right in a closely-fought First Half and we managed to reach Half-Time one goal up when Steve Cokell finished off John Beasley's excellent run and low cross with a first-time shot from close range in the 29th minute.

In fact we then had a great start to the Second Half when Stuart Dorward's extremely unfamiliar lack of alcohol the night before actually enabled him to outpace a defender to put us 2-0 up just a minute after the break and we looked as if we might be able to hang on with our defence looking very solid against increasing Steeles pressure.

However the game really changed in the 65th minute when Steve Beasley was sent off after being forced into a desperate and deliberate handball on the goal-line to stop Steeles pulling a goal back...although they did so anyway from the resulting penalty despite Stavros Elia getting a hand to the shot. The sight of us being reduced to 10 men though really fired Steeles up and Elia had to pull off a number of excellent saves to keep us in the match, although we could have done with a bit more help from referee Roper, who failed to send off Steeles defender Mus Akinjobi for a deliberate handball which stopped Conor McGovern going clean through on goal in the 74th minute and also allowed midfielder Steve Guise to get away with at least six bookable challenges throughout the course of the match...some of them after he had already been booked for the petty offence of delaying a free-kick!

Steeles then made the most of their good fortune at still having eleven men on the pitch by equalising as late as the third minute of Injury Time to send the game into Extra-Time, this being a disputed goal at the time as our 'returning Club Linesman for the day' Ron Beasley actually flagged for offside but was ignored by referee Roper, who did actually (and inadvertently?) make the right decision as it was a 'non-interfering' player that Ron was flagging for.

With at least four of our players now starting to go down with cramp and all three allowable substitutions having already been made, it would have needed a miracle for our 10 men to have snatched a winner in Extra-Time (even though it was only 10 minutes each way instead of 15 because of the referee turning up late), but we actually pulled ourselves together and created one or two chances and we weren't too far away from forcing a Penalty Shoot-Out (which would have been a good laugh for the camera). However, Steeles forward Jack McNichol scrambled in a winner with just 5 minutes remaining to kill us off and we couldn't really complain about the final outcome in the end as the Shots Count (from video evidence) was massively in Steeles favour.

Although we were 'gutted' at the end as we were clearly good enough to reach the Final this season, we can be proud of our performance in this match as nobody played badly against one of the best sides we have faced for many years and on this evidence it will be a major surprise if Steeles don't go on to actually win the competition.