

* - SUBSTITUTED

SUNDAY 30th SEPTEMBER 2001
 MERCURY HATHAM SUNDAY LEAGUE (DIVISION ONE) MATCH AWAY TO ST. JOSEPHS
 AT FLAMSTEAD END PLAYING FIELDS, CHESHAM

KICK-OFF 10.35 AM.

SCORE: ST. JOSEPHS 3 EDMONTON ROVERS 1

HAZARD: 1-0

Team	Pos	Player	Notes	Minutes	Goals	Assists
1. GK	1	Stavros ELIA	*	(25)	6	
2. RB	3	Robin PRYKE			6	
3. LB	2	Lee OSBORN			6	
4. RM	7	Paul ELLERKER	*	(80)	6	
5. SW	11	Stuart DORWARD (CAPTAIN)			6½	
6. CH	4	Paul WOOLSTON			6½	67 mins
7. CM	18	Russell BEEDEN	*	(71)	6½	
8. CM	6	Marco ELLERKER			6	
9. CF	9	Derek DORWARD			6*	
10. CF	5	Steve COKELL			6	
11. LM	10	John BEASLEY			6	
12. GK	12	Darryl JOHNSON	*	(25)	6*	
14. SW	15	Tony SPELLER	*	(71)	6*	
15. RM	16	Gary ODELL	*	(80)	6*	
16. -	12	Paul REBATO			-	
17. -	14	Scott ROBERTSON			-	

OPPONENTS GOAL TIMES: ANDY KELSEY (12, 68 mins), MARK HARVEY (80 mins)

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: L. HUGHES, T. HUGHES, T. REEDEN, C. BEEDEN, K. DEWMAN

CROPS: 20

CLUB LINEUP: GARY SOUTHAM

BOOKINGS: -

SENDING OFFS: -

WEATHER CONDITIONS: CLOUDY WITH OCCASIONAL LIGHT RAIN. SLIGHT BREEZE ACROSS PITCH

STATE OF PITCH: VERY BOBBLY AND WET ON TOP

Report: At the 25th Anniversary Dinner the Friday before this match I was informing all the 'Old Boys' that we now had the strongest squad in the club's history and that they should come along to watch this fixture to see the evidence! It was just as well that none of them turned up then, as virtually everyone had an 'off-day', despite us fielding a very strong side (on paper) with only Steve Beasley missing (away on holiday in the Dominican Republic with his girlfriend).

In some ways, this was a very similar match to the previous week's 6-2 defeat to Chaseside Old Boys with our goalkeeper having to go off injured (in this case Stavros Elia after Paul Ellerker gave him a 'hospital ball' with a bad backpass), our finishing being appalling and too many big gaps appearing in our defence (for which we were punished severely)! However, it was nothing like as entertaining to watch from the touchline as both sides (but especially us) were guilty of poor control and numerous overhit passes on a very poor playing surface and the ball spent more time in the bushes along Brookfield Lane than actually on the field of play!

The nightmare started for us in the very first minute when Steve Cokell acted over the bar when played through on goal (although the ball did bobble really badly), then Stavros Elia got injured five minutes later and was therefore unable to 'back-peddle' sufficiently enough to keep out a looping header which put St. Josephs ahead after only 12 minutes. Thankfully though, one of our five substitutes was recently-signed keeper Darryl Johnson, who was able to take over from Stavros in the 25th minute by which time Russell Beeden had already had a number of good efforts at goal which were saved in increasingly unorthodox (and highly fortunate) fashion by St. Josephs keeper Robert Cobb. However, with Cobb normally being an outfield player and St. Josephs missing four regulars...they even had Secretary Mark Butcher playing who is almost as bad as me!...we weren't panicking as we came off at Half-Time 1-0 down as we had been the better side in the First Half and just needed a lucky break. That didn't come until the 67th minute though when Paul Woolston equalised with a low shot after a good spell of pressure, but before that St. Josephs had created a number of good chances and Darryl Johnson had to make a couple of good saves to keep us in the match. Indeed our more creative players (particularly Marco Ellerker and John Beasley) just couldn't get into the match at all as St. Josephs closed them down in midfield and defended deep in order to hit us on the break and that resulted in them regaining the lead just a minute after our equaliser (although we were unlucky that referee Mick Edwards made his only mistake of the match in failing to spot a slight push on Stuart Dorward as they did so). That goal saw us become even more ragged though and although we created the occasional clear-cut chance when we brought on Tony Speller at sweeper and pushed Stuart Dorward into midfield, St. Josephs grabbed a third on the break in the 80th minute which rather killed the game off and they probably deserved to win in the end.

As for us, we will just have to be patient until we can field this team week in-week out as some of our players were still calling Darryl Johnson 'Mate' due to their unavailability during the season so far, whilst this was also the first time that forwards Derek Dorward and Steve Cokell had even met each other, so the sight of them both making the same runs and almost colliding with each other every time our midfielders got the ball was maybe no surprise!