

Sunday 24th February 2008

Mercury Waltham Sunday League Division One Match at Hazelwood Sports Ground

EDMONTON ROVERS

4

**ST. MARGARETSBURY
(SUNDAY)**

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*S.Dorward (15, 17, 71 mins.),
Brown (83 mins.)*

Clark (80 mins.)

EDMONTON ROVERS LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10): Martin LOVEDAY (GK) (7½); Terry MOORE (8), Alan BARNARD (8), Tony SPELLER (7½); Tony KING (7), Rob BROWN (8), Stuart BYHURST (8), Tem ADIL (7); Stuart DORWARD (8½); Conor McGOVERN (8), Derek DORWARD (7) **Subs.:** Nick VERTIGANS (On for King 62 mins.) (7), Daniel DALEY (On for D.Dorward 71 mins.) (6½), Danny GREEN (On for McGovern 83 mins.) (6½), Kris SPYROU (Not Used), Ozel OZERMAN (GK) (Not Used)

ST. MARGARETSBURY'S LINE-UP: Gareth EVANS (GK); Dominic MURPHY, Mark ELLIOTT, 'Simon', Gary ELDRIDGE; 'Harry', Mark ANGELINI, Luke WITHERINGTON, Ian WHITE; Gerry ADAMSON, Alan CLARK **Sub.:** Lee WEATHERHEAD (On for Adamson 65 minutes)

Referee: Dave STEVENSON

Weather Conditions: Sunny & Warm

Attendance:
16

Factual Report (by Laurence Hughes):

Typical of us, it was from one extreme to the other in terms of players available for this match when just a week after only being able to field nine men, we had a full squad of 16 turn up!

With St. Margaretsbury having beaten us 4-0 in this fixture at Hazelwood towards the end of last season though and turning up with a similarly strong line-up, it was a good job

that we had strengthened our side for this one with new signings Rob Brown (from the now-defunct ex-Premier Division side London Ajax) and Danny Green (a forward brought along by Martin Loveday) both included and the likes of the Dorward brothers, Nick Vertigans and Daniel Daley also returning to the fold after various other commitments. Of course we were still missing

the suspended Danny Hagan and long-term injury victims Steve Cokell, Clark Williams and goalkeeper Darryl Johnson though, while Paul Woolston was on babysitting duty again. However, that gave another chance for the likes of Tony Speller, Stuart Byhurst, Tony King and Tem Adil to all start another game after numerous substitute appearances for most of the season so far and they all played their part in helping us to a rare win.



After a cagey opening 15 minutes with few clear-cut chances, we managed to take the lead when Stuart Dorward met his brother Derek's well-driven corner at the far post with a powerful header, albeit after an inadvertent near-post flick-on by St. Margaretsbury midfielder Ian White, and then skipper Stuart made it 2-0 just a couple of minutes later with a left-footed close-range sidefooted finish from Conor McGovern's through ball after defender Mark Elliott had blocked his initial attempted square ball to brother Derek.

However, St. Margaretsbury gradually fought back and had a good spell towards the end of the First Half but some good defending and an excellent one-handed save by Martin Loveday kept them at bay. Stuart Dorward then nearly completed a First Half hat-trick in the 40th minute when he found himself clean through on goal, but St. Margaretsbury keeper Gareth Evans also made a good save. St. Margaretsbury were clearly having problems coping with Stuart's free role behind the front two in our 3-4-1-2 formation as he also had a couple of other chances in the first 45 minutes, so they changed their formation for the Second Half to match ours and once again had a good spell of pressure with Tony Speller having to clear a header off the line and Terry Moore and Alan Barnard both having to be on top form. However, Derek Dorward, Stuart Dorward and Conor McGovern all missed good chances on the break, but Stuart finally completed his hat-trick in the 71st minute with an excellent lob over the keeper from another McGovern through ball, this being a possible Goal Of The Season contender, but the game wasn't quite 'all over' as St. Margaretsbury pulled a goal back to make it 3-1 in the 80th minute when Alan Clark volleyed home from close range after a good move, and only another really good save by Martin Loveday stopped them making it 3-2 shortly afterwards as he tipped Ian White's long-range effort over the bar. However, Rob Brown killed them off in the 83rd minute when he capped an impressive debut with a well-struck volley from Conor McGovern's cross to make it 4-1 and give us three really useful points in what was an excellent team performance.

TREVOR HUGHES'S MANAGER'S REPORT

After last week's low point of fielding a team of 9 the squad had risen to 17 by Saturday evening. On Sunday morning I was surprised to find that I had received no text messages overnight and only Vernon Nxumalo failed to arrive leaving me with a full team and five substitutes including Ozel Ozerman as a sub keeper and volunteer linesman. Only Paul Woolston was unavailable from last week so Martin Loveday continued in goal with Tony Speller joining Alan Barnard and Terry Moore at the back. Tony King, Stuart Byhurst and Tem Adil were joined in midfield by captain, Stuart Dorward, and debutant, Rob Brown. Derek Dorward returned to give Conor McGovern a partner up front. Nick Vertigans returned from his foreign travels, Daniel Daley was available again after working on Sundays, Kris Spyrou was back from university and another new signing Dan Green made up the substitutes bench. Our opponents, St Margaretsbury, appeared to have their usual side so we were expecting a close game. The first goal came after 15 minutes with a header by Stuart Dorward from brother, Del's corner. It was only two minutes later when Conor McGovern's through ball put Stuart clear to double our lead. Martin Loveday made an excellent one handed save before Stuart was denied his hat trick by an equally fine save by St Margaretsbury's keeper. However, the hat trick was only delayed until the 71st minute when Stuart was again put through by Conor and this time both the pass and the finish were of the highest quality making it a 'goal of the season' contender. Our defence had been excellent but were denied a clean sheet with 10 minutes left after a good volley gave Martin Loveday no chance. However, Rob Brown capped a fine debut with a volleyed goal from Conor's cross to restore the three goal cushion and the 4-1 final score was well deserved.