

Sunday 20th April 2008

Mercury Waltham Sunday League Division One Match at Hazelwood Sports Ground

|                                               |          |                                                                |          |        |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------|
| <b>EDMONTON ROVERS</b>                        | <b>3</b> | <b>ST. MARY'S (EDMONTON)</b>                                   | <b>3</b> | HT 3-2 |
| S.Dorward (22 mins.),<br>Daley (35, 44 mins.) |          | Faulkner (19 mins.),<br>Bowen (24 mins.),<br>Shiels (62 mins.) |          |        |

**EDMONTON ROVERS LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10):** Darryl JOHNSON (GK) (7); Tem ADIL (6½), Alan BARNARD (7½), Martin LOVEDAY (7), Ozel OZERMAN (6); Clark WILLIAMS (7), Rob BROWN (7½), Stuart DORWARD (7½), Danny HAGAN (7½), Tony KING (7); Daniel DALEY (7½) **Sub.:** Kris SPYROU (On for Ozerman at Half-Time) (6½)

**ST. MARY'S LINE-UP:** Andy QUINN (GK); Michael MOORE, Shay SALIH, Mark BATT, James O'SULLIVAN; Martin DALTON, Andy ASHBY, Bradley JENNINGS, Sam BOWEN; James FAULKNER, Dan SHIELS **Subs.:** Danny SMITH (On for Dalton - Second Half), Alex BENJAMIN (On for O'Sullivan - Second Half)

**Referee:** Peter JONES

**Weather Conditions:** Cold and Cloudy

**Attendance:**  
12

**Factual Report  
(by Laurence  
Hughes):**

We suffered our heaviest-ever Mercury Waltham Sunday League defeat the last time we played our Hazelwood pitch-sharers St. Mary's back in December, going down 10-0 in their Home game thanks to us having to put Tony King in goal



and midfielders in defence as we fielded just a bare eleven. Despite St. Mary's having gone on to win most of their Division One matches since then and more-or-less clinch promotion to the Premier Division already, we were quietly confident of gaining 'revenge' in this match even though we knew they would be really fired up with the Division One Title at stake for them. That was because we had first-choice goalkeeper Darryl Johnson back at last after missing most of the season so far with a shoulder injury, while key central midfielders Rob Brown and Danny Hagan were both available to start a match together for the first time, skipper Stuart Dorward was also fit again after a hamstring injury, and sweeper Alan Barnard returned after missing the previous week's 4-3 win against Cheshunt (Sunday) because he was running in the London Marathon. We were most looking forward to seeing if Daniel Daley and Danny Green could continue their promising looking partnership up front against top opposition though, and also how Scott Jenkins would play alongside Alan Barnard and Martin Loveday in a useful-looking back three, but that all went out of the window 10 minutes before the kick-off when it became apparent that Green and Jenkins had been out all night (probably watching the Calzaghe fight ?) and were not going to turn up !

With Kris Spyrou presumably thinking he was only needed if somebody phoned him, that left us with just a bare eleven thanks to various dropouts during the week, and we ended up 'having to' play a 4-5-1 formation with second-choice goalkeeper Ozel Ozerman playing as a (right-footed) outfield player at left-back, midfielder Tem Adil having to play out of position at right-back, and Clark Williams having to start the match and play through the pain barrier again with an arthritic foot !

Personally I was seriously annoyed and frustrated with players letting us down yet again and I

fully expected another severe hammering, but presumably Manager Trevor Hughes and Club Captain Stuart Dorward somehow managed to motivate everyone before the kick-off as we started quite well and restricted St. Mary's to mainly half-chances early on. However, they took the lead after 19 minutes when their obvious dangerman James Faulkner ran onto a through ball to score comfortably (with Ozel Ozerman probably playing him onside ?).

We managed to shrug that off just three minutes later though when Stuart Dorward equalised with a powerful 20-yard cross-shot into the far corner, but then just two minutes later, St. Mary's regained the lead when Sam Bowen beat Darryl Johnson to the rebound to lob into an empty net after D.J. had saved well from Bowen's initial effort in a one-on-one. At the time, I was worried as to whether or not I actually got those two goals on video though, as an earlier challenge by Tony King in midfield had seen the ball smash into the tripod and make the front leg unfasten and gradually slide off the table I was standing on, taking me with it onto the ground and inadvertently hitting the pause button in the process without realising it ! I therefore missed seven minutes worth of action (or rather seven minutes of unnecessary non-stop abuse by both sides aimed at Referee Peter Jones) until I found out ! Fortunately though, I was back recording when Daniel Daley equalised again in the 35th minute with a tap-in on the goal-line after keeper Andy Quinn had failed to cut out Stuart Dorward's low cross, and then again a minute before Half-Time when Daley, who was playing as a lone striker, carved his way straight through the whole of their defence in a run from the half-way line on the break to put us 3-2 up at Half-Time.



That was obviously a really shock scoreline in the circumstances, as although they were missing one or two key players, St. Mary's still had a much stronger side out than us on paper. Manager Hughes had to make a change at Half-Time though, as Kris Spyrou had by

now guessed he was needed and had turned up as a lone substitute, so that enabled Ozel Ozerman to come off for a much-needed breather...in running the line for the Second Half ! Kris's introduction saw a change to a 3-5-2 formation for the Second Half with Tony King now playing up front with Daniel Daley, Kris playing left midfield, Tem Adil right midfield and Clark Williams playing as a central defender. Although these seemed to be risky changes though, it actually turned out that we were more solid defensively in the Second Half, and when St. Mary's made it 3-3 in the 62nd minute it was actually a rare clear-cut chance for them. We were really unlucky though, as Martin Loveday's good diving defensive header hit a St. Mary's player and went straight into the path of forward Dan Shiels, whose shot took a big deflection off Rob Brown when Darryl Johnson initially had the shot covered.

We were unable to create many chances ourselves though, and despite Referee Jones playing 8 minutes of Injury Time, mainly for 'time-wasting' by our players, neither side really looked like scoring and had to settle for a draw...which was a good result for us, but it could have been even better if Danny Green and Scott Jenkins had turned up. After all, we had already beaten St. Mary's in the Cup this season and we only had four survivors playing in this match from the 10-0 debacle.

We now still have to find one more win from somewhere to make sure of avoiding relegation, and we are making it unnecessarily hard on ourselves because of a lack of commitment from certain players. Very frustrating when we know that we are as good as any other team in the Division when we field a strong side.

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

*Following a good performance last week, man of the match Vernon 'Kizza' Nxumalo and Paul Woolston were unavailable, Derek Dorward was ruled out for the rest of the season with his broken ankle and Danny Green and Scott Jenkins failed to turn up. At least we had two goalkeepers as Darryl Johnson returned in goal for his first match since his shoulder injury leaving Ozel Ozerman to make a rare appearance as an outfield player at left back as we only had eleven players at the kick off. We were playing our local rivals at Hazelwood, St Mary's, who are second in the table and beat us 10-0 in the earlier fixture. However, with Darryl in goal, Alan Barnard returning in defence after completing the London Marathon and a strong centre midfield of Rob Brown, Danny Hagan and Stuart Dorward we were confident of a much closer match this time. We did go behind after 19 minutes when a through ball went through the centre of our defence but Stuart Dorward equalised three minutes later with a well struck shot into the far corner. St Mary's retook the lead when Darryl was unlucky that his save rebounded straight back to the forward to score. This time Stuart created an equaliser with an excellent cross that the keeper couldn't hold so Daniel Daley could tap in. Daniel then gave us the lead just before half time with a solo effort running from half way to beat three defenders and slot home. Kris Spyrou replaced Oz at half time so we switched to a 3-5-2 formation which had the effect of crowding the midfield and making it difficult for St Mary's to create chances. Unfortunately, we were unlucky when Martin Loveday's diving headed clearance rebounded to another player whose shot from long range deflected off Rob Brown into the corner of the net when Darryl had it covered. Although a point was a good result for us St Mary's were desperate for a winner and the referee added 8 minutes injury time mainly due to complaints about the time it was taking Darryl to take his goal kicks. However, there were no real scares at either end and 3-3 was a fair result.*