

Sunday 13th February 2005

Mercury Waltham Sunday League Division Four Match at Albany Park

EDMONTON ROVERS
RESERVES

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THE WHEATSHEAF
RESERVES

MATCH POSTPONED... 'NON-FULFILMENT OF FIXTURE' BY US !

Report (by Laurence Hughes): With goalkeeper Dave Bagnall and outfield players Colin Bester, Gary Odell, Paul Gibson and Gary Adamson all being needed for the First Team squad and six regulars not available at all, the Reserve Team for this match would have been just a bare eleven (at the most), including outfield player Russell Beeden in goal and three or four outfield players who 'still have to learn how to kick the ball properly' (according to their team-mates). In addition to that, we would have had no club linesman and no Manager, as Mark Howley's bad back was still playing up and he was intending to just travel to the venue, 'dump the stuff off' (i.e. nets, kit, balls, etc) and leave Russell and Lee Osborn to it !

With the six missing regulars being Myron Mc,Kay (Flu), Barry Matthews (Flu), Chris Morrish (Flu), Ritchie Copues (Ankle Injury), Scott Robertson (Family Commitments) and Terry Deller (Stomach Muscle Injury), it meant there were far too many experienced players unavailable and there is no doubt whatsoever that the Reserves would have lost by a cricket score without them *and* the *other* five who had been taken for the First Team.

There had been several heated debates during the week between myself, Mark, Russell and Lee concerning the fact that the Reserves cannot continue to keep fielding too many inexperienced players all at the same time because they will just carry on getting 'thrashed' by seven or more goals every match, thereby causing even more players to get 'pissed off' and leave...as the likes of Lexton Harrison, Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay and Brian Kamuteku have already done (amongst numerous others).

With that in mind, a decision was therefore taken at 9.15.a.m. on the morning of the match between myself, Russell and Mark to call the Reserve Team game off and concede the points (and pay a £50.00 Fine !), even though we 'definitely' had enough players available above the minimum seven required. This decision had to be made though, as there was a very real chance that Mark (and possibly two or three experienced players) would have 'jacked it all in' if we had played this match and been beaten heavily...their frustration being down to the First Team continually taking their better players and leaving them with too many who are not good enough at the present time for us to compete with teams in Division Four.

The decision to call off the Reserve Team's fixture was made while I was sitting in my car just before going into Hazelwood Sports Ground to put the nets up for the [First Team's match at Home to Everest](#). When I went into the ground (five minutes after speaking to Russell), I then found out that the First Team's pitch had been called off by the groundsman because of surface water at the 'Cowshed' end !!

This was totally unexpected as I didn't realise it had rained that much during the night...and maybe it didn't in Edmonton ?...and indeed no players had been phoning me (as they normally would) to ask 'Is the game still on ?'

By the time I had contacted Russell again, he had already informed The Wheatsheaf Reserves and most of our players that their game was off, so we were then unable to get the First Team squad over to Albany Park to play...which would have been an ideal situation, even though we still had no 'proper' goalkeeper.

If Russell had phoned me just five minutes later (after I had already gone through the gates at Hazelwood to put up the nets), we could have (and probably would have ?) fielded the following team for the Reserves (according to player eligibility within the League rules):

Russell Beeden (GK): Colin Bester, Lee Osborn, Gary Adamson, Peter White; Jon Ellis-Browne, Tony Speller, Paul Ellerker, Peter Murphy; Derek Dorward, Eric Ibekwem. Subs: **Tem Adil, Foyso Ahmed, Daniel George, Mashood Burahee** and one other out of **Ali Ahmed, Adam Barker, Oscar Aleman & Thomas Dell.**

Needless to say, we almost certainly would have *won* the match with that team, and with only the First Team playing the following week and only the Reserve Team playing the week after that, it probably would have solved all of our problems...for the time being at least.

Sorry ! It's all probably my fault !!?