

Sunday 17th April 2005

Mercury Waltham Sunday League Division Four Match at Enfield Playing Fields (Pitch 4)

EDMONTON ROVERS RESERVES	3	TOLMERS	3	HT 3-1
Ahmed (9 mins.), G.Cokell (26 mins.), Dedman (33 mins.)		Wilson (30 mins.), Rogers (63 mins.) Carter (68 mins.)		

EDMONTON ROVERS RESERVES' LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10): Simon JACKSON (GK) (7); Peter WHITE (7), Lee OSBORN (7), Kevin DEDMAN (7), Terry DELLER (7); Foysoh AHMED (7), Gary COKELL (7½), Scott ROBERTSON (7), Daniel GEORGE (7); Myron Mc,KAY (7), Steve COKELL (7) **Subs.:** Adam BARKER (6½), Russell BEEDEN (6½)

TOLMERS LINE-UP: Stuart CRUMP (GK); John FORD, Pete ELFORD, John KEELING, Dave WHITEHEAD; Darren SALTER, Chris CARTER, Pete WILSON, Bradley JOYCE; Andy CRUMP, Matt ROGERS **Subs.:** None

Referee: Simon FLETCHER

Weather Conditions: Sunny & Warm

Attendance: 13

Report (By Laurence Hughes):

Following the First Team's encouraging 3-3 draw against Premier Division leaders Everest in *their* last match of the season the previous week, we were hoping that the Reserves might even go one better and gain their first **win** of the season in *their* last match...and they very nearly pulled it off !

Although Tolmers had lost 4-0 to Turnford Rangers in midweek, they were presumably fielding a stronger line-up for *this* match, even though they only had a bare eleven and what appeared to be an outfield



player in goal. Indeed they had convincingly won the League Junior Cup Final recently despite their mid-table position in Division Four, and having lost 6-1 to them earlier in the season, we were always going to be the underdogs.

Once again we had a to field a much-changed side due to no less than seven players being unavailable who would have been in contention for a place in the starting line-up as supposed 'first-choice' Reserve Team players, these being Tony Speller (Social Commitments), Chris



Morrish (In Valencia for the weekend), Peter Murphy (Family Commitments), Colin Bester (Was initially unavailable, then changed his mind when it was too late to drop somebody else for him to play !), Tem Adil (Illness), Barry Matthews (Injured Groin ?) & Ritchie Copues (Injured Ankle).

That saw us having to replace most of them with First Team players who did not fall foul of the League's complicated eligibility rules, these being Steve Cokell, Gary Cokell, Kevin Dedman and Simon Jackson, and that obviously helped as we took a shock lead after 9 minutes when Foyso Ahmed struck a low shot into the far bottom corner after a scramble in the area, this being

his first goal of the season. That came from a good passing move and we created another clear-cut chance shortly afterwards which saw 16-year-old Daniel George go clean through on goal, but his inexperience showed when he scuffed his shot badly wide, although the foot-long grass didn't help ! (*The goalposts had now been taken down at Albany Park for the cricket season, which was why we had to play this match at Enfield Playing Fields*).

Tolmers clearly underestimated us early on and we even managed to increase our lead in the 26th minute when Gary Cokell hit a spectacular shot into the top corner after another good move, although Tolmers keeper Stuart Crump did look a bit suspect.

As usual though, there was no way we were going to keep a clean sheet, and Tolmers pulled a goal back in the 30th minute to make it 2-1 when Simon Jackson mis-judged the flight of the ball from a corner to leave midfielder Pete Wilson with a free header.

It then became a more even game, but we had a stroke of luck in the 33rd minute when Kevin Dedman's long free-kick from inside his own half went straight in as Myron Mc,Kay put keeper Crump off by jumping in front of him to try and glance the ball in (and missing it completely !), the ball then going through Crump's legs as he did some sort of 'star-jump' as if he was doing a

pre-match warm-up. (Unfortunately, you couldn't quite see that on video as there were too many other players in the way).

We came off at Half-Time 3-1 up and without Lee Osborn having done anything amusing enough for [Clip Of The Week](#) so far, which was of course highly unusual on both counts.

That all changed in the Second Half though, when he got hit in the 'nuts' with the ball as a result of looking the other way to 'bollock' one of his team-mates and failing to see it coming towards him, and then, as usual, we started getting sloppy defensively and conceded a goal in the 63rd minute due to Terry Deller trying to play a needless offside trap, Lee Osborn playing them all on and Kevin Dedman missing the ball completely in sliding in to make a challenge on Chris Carter, who then crossed for Matt Rogers to head into an empty net with Deller and Osborn standing like statues (because they thought Dedman would clear the ball easily...which he should have done). That saw Simon Jackson blaming Osborn, resulting in the usual slanging match between the pair of them which ended with 'Jacko' hurling down his gloves in disgust and walking off the pitch ! Thankfully, Caretaker Manager Russell Beeden stepped onto the pitch to stop him from doing so, but no keeper would have had a chance with Tolmers' equaliser in the 68th minute which saw Chris Carter's sliced cross sail into the far top corner...Carter's celebration actually being one of embarrassment.

Despite that though, we still managed to create some really good chances ourselves in the Second Half, unlike other Reserve Team matches captured on video this season where nobody has managed a decent shot for the whole 90 minutes ! However, a 3-3 draw was probably a fair result on the balance of play and that ensured that our Reserves went through the whole season without winning a single match !

Although certain players played a lot better than usual (in particular Foyso Ahmed, Scott Robertson and Terry Deller) and it was a good team performance on the whole, there was still far too much 'bollocking' going on (in my opinion) whenever anybody made a mistake and it is definitely something that will have to be stamped out in order to encourage our younger players to stay with the club.