

Sunday 28th March 2010 (FIRST MATCH OF DOUBLE-HEADER...30 Minutes each way)				
Waltham Sunday League Division One Match at Hazelwood Sports Ground				
EDMONTON ROVERS	0	TURNFORD GEESE	1	HT 0-0
		Norris (33 mins.)		
EDMONTON ROVERS LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10): Darryl JOHNSON (GK) (6); Jamile LITTLE (6), Alan BARNARD (6½), Terry MOORE (6½); Tony KING (6), Danny HAGAN (6), Jim ARROWSMITH (7), Vernon NXUMALO (6); Stuart DORWARD (6); Daniel DALEY (6), Steve COKELL (6) Subs.: Martin LOVEDAY (6) (On for Little 38 Mins.), Terry BROWN (6) (On for King 46 mins.), Simon JACKSON (GK) (Not Used)				
TURNFORD GEESE'S LINE-UP: Robert THWAITES (GK); Paul CAVILL, Chris WICKS, Paul KIELTY, Tony VULLO; Lee ELLERBECK, Peter ENEFER, Andrew PERRY, Paul SIMPSON, Brett NORRIS; Jamie FEELEY Subs.: Neal DODD (On for Kielty in First Half), Phil BAKER (Not Used ?)				
Referee: John STOCKMAN	Weather Conditions: Mainly Sunny		Attendance: 14	
Report (by Laurence Hughes): After the debacle of the week before when a lack of substitutes saw us lose 6-0 in the second match of our Double-Header against Flamstead End, Manager Trevor Hughes dared to text/e-mail a couple of players (against club rules) to encourage them to turn up and give us a squad of 14 this time...namely Jim Arrowsmith (who was upset at being an unused substitute in our 90-minute match against Great Eastern) and Vernon 'Kizza' Nxumalo (who had not been paid at work and didn't want to let his team-mates down by not paying his subs). This of course is what all other Managers in our Division do (by phone), and with Daniel Daley bringing along Jamile Little for his long-awaited debut to make up the squad of 14 (albeit with two goalkeepers as Simon Jackson returned after illness), everybody was reasonably happy and confident of producing better performances in both matches this time. However, as usual when the clocks go forward for British Summer Time the night before, there is always at least one of our players who forgets. On this occasion it was Martin Loveday, and that caused a problem straight away as he had arranged to give Terry Brown a lift, who was therefore left stranded up in Cheshunt. That meant Jamile Little had to be thrown in at the deep end as a defender in our back three, but fortunately, unlike one or two others Daley had brought along to the club over the years, Jamile had actually played competitive 11-a-side football before and fitted in well in terms of his positioning, passing and calling for the ball. Having been signed up at the start of the season, it was hoped he would have been able to make his debut a bit earlier, but of course the bad weather and mass postponements had put paid to that. Although we were missing the injured Conor McGovern and midfielders Rob Brown and Danny Smith due to social commitments, we were still fielding a decent side for this first match with Danny Hagan also returning to the squad in addition to Jim and Kizza, and we started well by creating a couple of good chances. However, after doing the same to Flamstead End in the first match the week before, the same thing happened in this match where Turnford Geese obviously worked out our formation after a while and realised we were not as bad a side as some of our results this season suggested, so they raised their game and were extremely competitive with a lot of tackles flying in. That seemed to suit Jamile Little though, who had been described by Daniel Daley as our answer to Patrick Vieira before the game, and indeed he certainly won some excellent tackles with long legs sliding in to reach the ball, but also caught players late on one or two occasions because he hadn't played for ages and obviously found the pace of the game difficult. That saw him and a Turnford Geese midfielder being booked after one flare-up, but our players were more than happy to see that sort of fighting spirit when they are normally accused (by me !) of being too feeble and just playing for fun ! With chances few and far between for both sides in the First Half because of that, it therefore finished goal-less, but the deadlock was broken after just three minutes of the Second Half when Turnford Geese took the lead as a low shot from Brett Norris was apparently 'saved but then thrown over his own line' by Darryl Johnson for an Own Goal, although the video suggests it should be Norris's goal really. It was another frustrating mistake that eventually cost us the game, yet everything else 'D.J.' did was more-or-less faultless in terms of handling crosses, calling, positioning and kicking. Not that he had much to do after Turnford Geese had taken the lead, as their defensive-looking 4-5-1 formation just sat back on their lead and we never looked like breaking them down, even though Terry Brown and Martin Loveday had both turned up by then and been brought on for Jamile Little and Tony King. Turnford Geese gave us plenty of possession in midfield, but we just came up against a brick wall with every attempted pass aimed to forwards trying to make a run in behind them being cut out, and in fact we were lucky not to lose by more as they hit us on the break a couple of times but fired wide from good positions, while Steve Cokell also made a good clearance off the line from Neil Dodd's 20-yard shot after a corner had been half-cleared to him. It was a frustrating game, but a predictably close one with both sides very evenly-matches and more-or-less level with each other in the Division One table. At least with a squad of 14 this time though, there was more chance of us doing better in the second match, so we weren't too disheartened. CLICK HERE to see Turnford Geese's website.				

TREVOR HUGHES'S MANAGER'S REPORT

Just after 10 o'clock BST there was a prospect of us starting with 10 men including goalkeeper Simon Jackson up front as we only had 10 players at Hazelwood. Martin Loveday was the unexpected culprit who was still on GMT. Martin had volunteered to pick up Terry Brown who had been awake since 8 a.m. and was keen to be in the starting line up but they both arrived after the kick off. Fortunately, Daniel Daley and new signing Jamile Little had arrived in time to avoid a cameo for Jacko up front. Jamile did well on his debut with a few crunching tackles and an altercation with a Turnford Geese forward which had Terry Brown comment 'I like him already'. It was 0-0 at half time and was obviously going to be another close match. Unfortunately, we made the crucial error just 3 minutes into the second half when Darryl Johnson saved a low shot but then knocked it into his own net. I was able to bring on Martin Loveday and Terry Brown to give us a more attacking formation and we had a better spell searching for an equaliser. However, we ran out of time and suffered another 1-0 defeat.