

100% * - SUBSTITUTED

SUNDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2001

MERCURY HAZELWOOD SUNDAY LEAGUE (DIVISION ONE) MATCH AT HOME TO UNIQUE

KICK OFF 10.40 AM. (REFEREE LATE) AT HAZELWOOD SPORTS GROUND

SCORE: EDMONTON ROVERS 4 UNIQUE 0 HALF TIME: 3-0

TEAM	MARKS OUT OF 10	SCORERS
1. GK ¹ STAVROS ELIA	7	
2. RB ⁹ PAUL REBATIO	6½	
3. LB ¹⁰ STEVE BEASLEY (CAPTAIN)	6*	
4. RM CM PAUL ELLERKER	7*	
5. SW ¹¹ TONY SPEUER	7	
6. CH ³ ROBIN PRYKE	7½	
7. CM ¹⁸ RUSSELL BEEDEN * (57 mins)	6½	
8. CM ¹⁶ MARCO ELLERKER	8	39, 45 mins,
9. CF ⁶ DEREK DORWARD	7	90 mins,
10. CM CM SCOTT ROBERTSON	6½	
11. LM ¹⁷ JOHN BEASLEY	7½	
12. RM ¹⁴ GARY ODELL * (57 mins)	6*	
14. - LEE OSBORN	-*	
15. GK DARRYL JOHNSON	-	
16. -	-	
17. -	-	

OPPOSITIVE GOAL TIMES: -

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: L. HUGHES, T. BEEDEN, P. WOOLSTON, C. BEEDEN (LATE), D. BIGNALL

CROWD: 12

CLUB LINEUP: TREVOR HUGHES

REFEREE: BOB MARTIN

REFEREE'S MARK (OUT OF 10): 5

WEATHER CONDITIONS: HAZY SUNSHINE + COLD. NO WIND

STATE OF PITCH: VERY SOFT AND MUDDY (AFTER RAIN)

Report: We made it three wins in a row with this impressive-looking scoreline, but although we played well again, we were not quite as sharp as in our previous few matches for several reasons... Firstly, we were missing influential midfielder Stuart Dorward (who had gone away with his girlfriend for the weekend) and the in-form Steve Cokell (who aggravated an injury playing for his Saturday side Old Minchendians First XI the day before but then rather unwisely phoned Manager Trevor Hughes on his home number instead of his mobile hoping that Trevor's Step-Sons would give him the message that he wouldn't be playing... which of course they *didn't*... as usual!). With Paul Woolston still missing due to his head injury, that meant a few hasty last-minute re-arrangements had to be made with a badly unfit Russell Beeden coming in for his first start as an outfield player since the end of September and skipper Steve Beasley returning at left-back to replace Lee Osborn, who decided not to risk his 'dodgy groin' on what was a real 'quagmire' of a pitch. We also had to play defensive midfielder Scott Robertson in an unfamiliar role as an attack-minded player bursting from midfield to support lone striker Derek Dorward and although he got into some great positions to score, he only managed to force the Unique keeper into one worthwhile save with most of his seven attempts at goal going high or wide (or ending up as our Video Clip of the Week for being a 'Miss of the Season' candidate!). However, Unique's finishing was a lot worse, as they missed at least four clear-cut chances by shooting wide with only Stavros Elia to beat (invariably while our defenders were standing on the half-way line doing Tony Adams impersonations!). In fact we knew how Unique must have felt, as it was exactly what we were doing earlier on in the season (e.g. when we lost 6-2 to Chaseside Old Boys, but missed numerous chances). We even had a bit of luck that the pitch was churned up on this occasion, as it actually affected Unique more than it did us, as they had two or three quick and skilful players who were badly 'slowed down by the mud'. However, they also only had the 'bare eleven' players, including one or two who made Russell Beeden look like 'Slimmer of the Year' and it therefore wasn't much of a surprise when we took the lead after only three minutes thanks to an Own Goal (a 'bullet' header from six yards!). We then had to wait until the 39th minute to increase our lead through a header from Marco Ellerker after the Unique keeper had parried John Beasley's shot, before Ellerker notched his second and our third right on the Half-Time whistle with another header after being left unmarked from a corner. Unfortunately though we lost our way a bit as the game went on as Unique to their credit didn't give up and we needed a bit of help towards the end from referee Bob Martin who made a few strange decisions that mainly went in our favour and annoyed Unique to such an extent that they wasted a lot of time for us by moaning and arguing about them too much, although it obviously didn't help matters that Mr. Martin was wearing a pair of lurid Jade Green gloves for some reason... these being exactly the same colour as our shirts!

However, we kept our concentration quite well with even Manchester United supporter Stavros Elia not making any silly 'Barthez-Style' mistakes in goal this time, despite leaving his kit at work again and playing in a pair of boots with both a massive hole in them and short moulded studs on a pitch 'ankle-deep in mud'! (Maybe it was the presence of Darryl Johnson as one of our three substitutes that made him buck his ideas up!?). It was then finally left to Derek Dorward to have the last word in the 90th minute by punishing a bad backpass to make the Final Scoreline 4-0 and we were then quite surprised to hear some Unique players say that we were the best team they had faced in our starting line-up... er, have I forgotten anyone, Lee?