

Sunday 22nd March 2009 (FIRST MATCH OF DOUBLE-HEADER...30 Minutes each way)

Mercury Waltham Sunday League Division One Match at Hazelwood Sports Ground

EDMONTON ROVERS	3	UNIQUES	0	HT 2-0
King (7, 35 mins.), Dorward (15 mins.)				

EDMONTON ROVERS LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10): Darryl JOHNSON (GK) (7); Terry MOORE (7), Alan BARNARD (7), Martin LOVEDAY (7); Tony KING (7), Rob BROWN (7), Terry BROWN (7), Jim ARROWSMITH (7); Stuart DORWARD (7½); Vernon NXUMALO (7), Steve COKELL (7) **Subs.:** Daniel DALEY (6½) (On for Nxumalo 46 mins.), Gavin MARDELL (6) (On for R.Brown 51 mins.)

UNIQUES LINE-UP: Dereck BROWN (GK); Muka MASON, Joel BURNETT, Kevin ANTOINE, Andy SIVI; Jamie HARRISON, Orraine FISHER, Darryl HANSON, Tarik HASSAN; Adrian HERBAN, Tyrone PALMER **Subs.:** Kashif SAMUELS (On at Half-Time for Herban), Muriu LEIGERTWOOD (On for Harrison 45 mins.)

Referee: John NOBLEMUNN

Weather Conditions: Sunny & Dry

Attendance: 16

Report (by Laurence Hughes): The last time we played Uniques (exactly a year ago), we only had 10 men, no Manager (Trevor was in Cyprus) and no Club Linesman, and we consequently ended up losing 5-0, despite them being bottom of the table at the time. It was an absolutely disastrous match, and when this Double-Header was arranged and we found out that Manager Hughes was off to Cyprus yet again, leaving the players to choose a Manager amongst themselves so that I could video the matches as normal, we certainly feared the worst. That was especially so when the previous week's Man-Of-The-Match Jamie Martin had to rule himself out with the knee injury he suffered in that game and then key midfielder Danny Hagan dropped out on Saturday evening with a pulled muscle from playing for Crouch End Vampires. We were also without first-choice striker Conor McGovern (who was attending a Wedding), while others such as Paul Woolston, Danny Green and Tem Adil were also unavailable, leaving us with only 13 players when Uniques turned up with a squad of 15 or 16 and we were hoping to do likewise. However, we had gained four points from a Double-Header against Turnford Geese with a squad of only 13, so we knew there was no reason why we could not do the same again, even though this was a real 'pressure' fixture and a 12-pointer with both sides battling to avoid relegation and pretty even in terms of points, goals and games in hand.



Both sides therefore went for it straight from the off with Caretaker Manager for the day Stuart Dorward's first-minute far post header from a Steve Cokell corner nearly being fumbled in by Uniques keeper Dereck Brown, while at the other end just a minute later, our crossbar was rattled by a bullet header from Orraine Fisher from a right-wing cross. That was a bit worrying for us as our defenders were all over the place like they had been the week before, but thankfully they settled down after that and Uniques' only other chances in the First Half were from mistakes by midfielders, but fortunately for us, they were wasted. We looked far more likely to score ourselves though, and we took the lead after just 7 minutes when Uniques left-back Andy Sivi gave away a free-kick just outside the area for a silly challenge on Stuart Dorward, but as Steve Cokell shaped up to hit it left-footed, Tony King spotted keeper Brown leaving a big gap the other side of the wall and he therefore stepped up to curl an excellent low drive into the bottom right-hand corner.

We then went 2-0 up after just 16 minutes when Dorward produced a typical burst through from midfield to run onto Vernon 'Kizza' Nxumalo's deft headed flick-on and toe-poke the ball past the oncoming keeper, but we didn't have too many other chances in the First Half and 2-0 was how it stayed until Half-Time. We then carried on playing well throughout the Second Half, but only had one more goal to show for it, with Tony King getting forward from 'right-wing-back' to score his second of the game with a fiercely-struck acute angle drive with the Uniques keeper obviously expecting a cross and leaving a big gap at his near post. Terry Brown (with a diving header just wide) and Steve Cokell (with poor control from Darryl Johnson's long drop kick) both missed clear-cut chances to increase our lead, but Uniques rarely threatened in the Second Half and it was a fairly comfortable three points after an excellent performance all round.