

* - SUBSTITUTED

Sunday 11th November 2001

MERCURY WATHAM SUNDAY LEAGUE (SENIOR CUP, FIRST ROUND) MATCH AT HOME TO

KICK OFF 10.45 AM. (REFEREE LATE) ^{← DUE TO LATE CHOICE OF OFFICIAL} UPSHIRE COACH & HORSES AT HAZELWOOD STADIUM

SCORE: EDMONTON ROVERS 3 UPSHIRE COACH & HORSES 4 HALF-TIME: 2-1

Team	Player	Pos	Goals	Assists	Minutes	Notes
1. GK	Stavros ELIA	1	0	0	90	
2. RB	Robin PRYKE	2	0	0	90	
3. LB	Steve BEASLEY (CAPTAIN)	3	0	0	90	
4. RM	Lee OSBORN	4	0	0	90	
5. SH	Tony SPELLER	5	0	0	90	
6. CM	Paul WOOLSTON	6	0	0	90	
7. CM	Scott ROBERTSON	7	0	0	90	
8. CM	Marco ELLERKER	8	0	0	90	
9. CF	Derek DORWARD	9	0	0	90	
10. CM	Stuart DORWARD	10	0	0	90	
11. LM	John BEASLEY	11	0	0	90	
12. CF	Steve COKELL	12	0	0	90	
14. RM	Paul ELLERKER	14	0	0	90	
15. CM	Paul REBAIRO	15	0	0	90	
16. —	—	—	—	—	—	
17. —	—	—	—	—	—	

OPPONENTS GOAL TIMES: JASON SKEET (32, 88 mins), STEVE BEASLEY OWN GOAL (46 mins), PAUL MITCHELL (89 mins)

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: L. HUGHES, R. BEEDEN, T. BEEDEN

CLUBS LIVERMAN: TREVOR HUGHES

BOOKINGS: —

SENDING OFFS: —

WEATHER CONDITIONS: CLOUDY, BUT QUITE MILD. NO WIND

STATUS OF PITCH: FAIRLY SOFT AND MUDDY, BOBBLY IN PLACES. (NOT AS BAD AS USUAL THOUGH!)

Report: When the draw was announced for this Competition and we found out that Upshire Coach & Horses were our opponents in the First Round, we had the attitude of 'Oh well, we were never going to win this Cup anyway!' (mainly because it is for teams in the Premier Division & Division One only). However, as we were fielding a full-strength side for the first time this season, we suddenly fancied our chances against the undoubted favourites for the Division One title, especially as they were missing the likes of Steve Keys, Gavin Peck & Paul Holloway (to name but a few)...all of them being well-known current or former local Senior Saturday League players. Unfortunately though, Upshire Coach & Horses have a squad of around 20 'Division One quality' players compared to our 14, so they weren't exactly fielding a weak side (despite their Manager's claims) and it therefore resulted in another closely fought game for us which could have gone either way. As usual though, we ended up losing after yet another saga of terrible bad luck which started in the 46th minute when Steve Beasley 'shinned' the ball into his own net in trying to control and clear a 'cross-shot', thereby allowing Upshire Coach & Horses to get back into the game straight away after Marco Ellerker had put us 2-1 up just before Half-Time. Beasley *did* have a slight excuse in that he (along with the Dorwards and Lee Osborn) had only had a couple of hours sleep after a night out in the West End celebrating Derek Dorward's girlfriend's birthday, but it didn't seem to affect 'Del' as he had scored a Goal of the Season contender to give us the lead in the 23rd minute. Although forward Jason Skeet headed Upshire level from an admittedly good move in the 32nd minute, we generally defended well in the First Half and Trevor Hughes's decision to leave Steve Cokell on the 'Subs Bench' and play a 4-5-1 formation seemed to be paying off until Beasley's Own Goal suddenly fired Upshire Coach & Horses up and they started to get on top. The introduction of Cokell & Paul Ellerker for Scott Robertson (knackered?) and Lee Osborn (pissed?) early in the Second Half saw us regain the initiative though and Paul Woolston then managed to put us 3-2 up in the 62nd minute after a scramble from a corner. However, things then started to go wrong again, firstly when both of our £40.00 Match Balls were hoofed into residents' back gardens in quick succession by Upshire defenders...we then had to play the rest of the match using a £5.00 practice ball, but nobody noticed (!), then Paul Woolston suffered a bad gash just above the eye after an accidental clash of heads in the 79th minute, causing a half-hour delay for an ambulance to arrive to take him to the 'North Mid' for nine stitches. (At least he only had to wait for two hours to have them inserted instead of the usual 24 though!).

When the game finally re-started, we could easily have lost our concentration with Paul Rebaïro coming on (for his 200th Appearance for the club) and a number of tactical changes having to be made to cope with Woolston's loss, but we defended really well with Stavros Elia's only real participation in the game being the claiming of overhit through balls...invariably after he had wrongly shouted for his defenders to head them away *first*!!

However, with just 90 seconds remaining, Tony Speller (who was heading for a well-deserved Man of the Match Award in his sweeper's role) suddenly missed the ball completely with an attempted clearance, letting Jason Skeet in to equalise and then just 60 seconds later, Speller made *another* defensive mistake which allowed substitute Paul Mitchell to go clean through and fire in what proved to be the winner...Referee Jago's whistle going just 30 seconds later!

According to Sky Sports' Andy Gray, 'getting punished for every defensive mistake' is only supposed to happen to teams in the Premiership!....Obviously not if your name is Edmonton Rovers though!?