

* - SUBSTITUTES

SUNDAY 21st JANUARY 2001

MERCURY HALHAM SUNDAY LEAGUE (DIVISION 2) MATCH AT HOME TO UPSHIRE COACH & HORSES

KICK OFF 10.45 AM (REFEREE LATE) AT HAZELWOOD SPORTS GROUND

SCORE: EDMONTON ROVERS 0 UPSHIRE COACH & HORSES 1 HALF-TIME: 0-0

Team	MARKS OUT OF 10	SCORERS
1. GK ¹ Stavros ELIA	8	
2. RB ¹⁶ Tony SPELLER	6½	
3. LB ¹⁰ Steve BEASLEY (CAPTAIN)	6½	
4. RM ⁴ Lee OSBORN	6	
5. SW ⁶ Stuart DORWARD	6½	
6. CH ³ Robin PRYKE	7½	
7. CM ⁷ Russell BEEDEN	7	
8. CM ⁸ Marco ELLERKER	7	
9. CF ¹² RM ^{60 mins} Paul ELLERKER	5½	
10. CF ¹¹ Derek DORWARD	6	
11. LM ⁵ John BEASLEY	6	
12. SW ¹⁵ Dave DIETMAN	7*	
14. CF ¹⁷ Lexton HARRISON	7*	
15. - Gary ODELL	-	
16. -	-	
17. -	-	

OPPONENTS GOAL TIMES: PAUL MITCHELL (54 min)

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: L. HUGHES, T. HUGHES, T. BEEDEN, C. MCGOVERN,

CROWD: 18

CLUB LINESMAN: RON BEASLEY

BOOKINGS: -

SENDING OFF: -

WEATHER CONDITIONS: - CONSTANT RAIN, (FAIRLY HEAVY) AND FREEZING COLD. NO WIND

STATE OF PITCH: - Icy AND DANGEROUS DOWN MIDDLE, SOFT DOWN WINGS. PUDDLES EVERYWHERE,

Report: Although we were fielding more or less a full-strength side with only Paul Rebaire missing (due to a family bereavement), we didn't go into this 'crunch' top-of-the-table match particularly full of confidence when we saw the state of the pitch as we knew it would ruin our passing game and give Upshire Coach & Horses a big advantage with their more direct and physical style of play. With the middle of the pitch still frozen solid after a week of sub-zero temperatures but the wings getting increasingly waterlogged due to the incessant rain falling throughout the match, we just couldn't get going at all from an attacking viewpoint and we could only muster one decent shot at goal all match (from John Beasley's free-kick which went straight at the keeper!).

Upshire though, created numerous chances and could have won by a bigger margin had it not been for a man-of-the-match performance from Stavros Elia, although we actually defended quite well throughout the match and particularly after Stuart Dorward went off with a head injury late in the first half from a deliberate 'blind-side of the ref' elbow. Stuart's absence in the second half then made it harder for us to get back into the game as we missed his runs from the back, although Lexton Harrison did really well up front when he came on for Lee Osborn in a 'tactical gamble' early in the second half and he ended up being one of our better outfield players on the day!

The goal that decided the match though was a really disappointing one from a defensive viewpoint, as Marco Ellerker gave away a silly free-kick in a dangerous position with a needless push in the back and we were duly punished when Upshire's Paul Mitchell headed it in from close range, but at least Marco was one of our better players at making an effort to ignore the dangerous conditions and 'get stuck in' in midfield to give us a faint hope of snatching an equaliser, but we didn't really deserve anything from this match and we will just have to hope the weather conditions (and Upshire's home pitch at Larsens Rec.) are in our favour the next time we play them.