

SUNDAY 4TH MARCH 2001				* - SUBSTITUTED	
MERCURY WALTHAM SUNDAY LEAGUE (DIVISION 2) MATCH AWAY TO UPSHIRE COACH & HORSES				AT TOWN MEAD PLAYING FIELDS, WALTHAM ABBEY	
KICK-OFF 10.30 AM.				Half-time: 1-2	
SCORE: UPSHIRE COACH & HORSES 3 EDMONTON ROVERS 3					
TEAM		MARKS OUT OF 10	SCORERS		
1. GK ¹ Stavros ELIA		7			
2. RB ² Dave DIETMAN	inj. (52 mins)	6½			
3. LB ¹⁰ Steve BEASLEY (CAPTAIN)		7½			
4. RM ¹¹ Tony SPELLER		6½	73 mins,		
5. SW ⁴ Stuart DORWARD		7½			
6. CH ³ Robin PRYKE		7			
7. CM ⁷ Marco ELLERKER		7	11 mins,		
8. CM ⁸ John BEASLEY		7½			
9. CF ¹⁷ Lexton HARRISON	inj. (63 mins)	6½			
10. CF ⁹ Derek DORWARD		7½	8 mins,		
11. LM ¹⁴ Lee OSBORN		7			
12. RB ¹² Gary SOUTHAM	* (52 mins)	6½			
14. CF ¹⁵ Gary ODELL	* (63 mins)	6½			
15. —	—	—			
16. —	—	—			
17. —	—	—			
OPPONENTS GOAL TIMES: PAUL HOLLOWAY (41, 70 (PEN) mins), GAVIN PECK (77 mins).					
OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: L. HUGHES, T. HUGHES, R. BEEDEN, P. RESARD (BRIERY !)					
CROWD: 18 REFeree: EDDIE WEBB					
CLUB LINESMAN: RON BEASLEY REFEREES' MARK (OUT OF 10): 5					
BOOKINGS: LOU PARRY (30 mins) (FOUL-ING), ALAN BREWER (63 mins) (FOUL ON LEXTON)					
SENDING OFFS: —					
WEATHER CONDITIONS: - VERY COLD AND CLOUDY. FREEZING COLD WIND DOWN PITCH (AGAINST US 2ND HALF)					
STATE OF PITCH: - PERFECT (FOR TIME OF YEAR) - FLAT AND GRASS CUT. BIT SMALL THOUGH!					

Report: With Stavros Elia, Marco Ellerker and Derek Dorward all returning after missing the defeat to Rosemill the previous week, we were fielding quite a strong *starting* line-up for this 'top-of-the-table' clash, but as we had no less than 14 registered players *unavailable* for various reasons it meant we had to call Gary Southam out of retirement (again), mainly because we *knew* we would need some substitutes at *some* stage of this match to cope with the almost inevitable injuries! Indeed Uphire Coach & Horses continued where they left off back in January at Hazelwood with their physical style of play and verbal intimidation, although Dave Dietman and Tony Speller's hamstring injuries in the first five minutes were self-inflicted through not warming *up* properly during the pre-match 'mini-snowstorm' and biting cold wind!? Thankfully though, both of them managed to play on for the rest of the half and they played their part in helping us to a 2-1 lead at half time on an excellent pitch which really helped our passing game.

However, Uphire's 'notorious' Scottish Manager Joe Edwards presumably gave his side a 'bollocking' at Half-Time as they put us under a lot more pressure in the Second Half, although the 'verbals' increased as *well*, especially in the 63rd minute when they accused Lexton Harrison of deliberately elbowing a defender and therefore retaliated with a fierce challenge which caused him to twist his knee (in the 'turf'?...there were too many players in the way to see how he did it on video). That saw Lexton having to be taken to hospital in agony and with Dave Dietman now off with his pulled hamstring, we were really up against it, especially when Uphire made it 2-2 shortly after the re-start from a penalty which was gained by a blatant dive that completely fooled referee Eddie Webb. However, we then had a bit of luck *ourselves* when Tony Speller regained the lead for us with an over-hit cross (not for the *first* time in his Rovers career!), but Uphire's irritating midfielder Gavin Peck (Conor McGovern's girlfriend's brother) went and equalised *again* just four minutes *later* with an admittedly good shot which our club linesman Ron Beasley flagged offside for, but was ignored by referee Webb who had obviously been intimidated too much by Uphire's players (and Manager) *already* and was therefore *never* going to give the decision *our* way!

Although a draw was probably a fair result on the balance of play, we were annoyed at throwing away a two-goal lead again as we really needed to *win* this match to have a chance of the Division 2 title, but at least we gave Uphire a good game this time and were not outplayed like we were at Hazelwood back in January.

Mc,Intyre

Report: This was our first defeat in our last five meetings with our regular Pre-Season opponents Trojans, but with key players Stuart Dorward & Russell Beeden *missing* that was no real *surprise*. However, we actually dominated possession and had more shots at goal than Trojans, but none of them came from our two forwards Lexton Harrison & Daniel Mc,Intyre as they were both easily marked out of the game by Trojans experienced defenders, with *one* of them, Andy Yeats, even finding time to come up and score both goals, albeit with rather fortunate headers. At least we were given a boost by the performance of Marco Ellerker on his debut, while defensively we looked quite solid again, but it's clear that we badly need an experienced forward who can put the ball in the back of the net and take the pressure off.