

Sunday 21st December 2003

Mercury Waltham Sunday League (Division Four) Match at Waltham Cross Playing Fields

WHITE HART RESERVES	2	EDMONTON ROVERS RESERVES	2	HT 1-0
Seabrook (21 mins.), T.Bush (84 mins.)		S.Dorward (82 mins.), Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay (89 mins)		

White Hart Reserves Line-Up: Steve NICHOLL; Paul MacDONALD, Jamie COOK, John GAMBRILL, Trevor POWELL; Matt BECKETT, Dan BUSH, Nick YORK, Karl Mc,LEAN; Tom BUSH, Jason SEABROOK **Subs.:** None

Edmonton Rovers Line-Up (with Marks out of 10): Darryl JOHNSON (GK) (6); Ali AHMED (6), Matt STEELL (7), Billy BURNHAM (7), Terry DELLER (6½); Brian KAMUTEKU (6½), Paul REBAIRO (6½), Leon Mc,KENZIE-Mc,KAY (7), Lee OSBORN (6½); Lexton HARRISON (6½), Mashood BURAAHEE (6) **Subs:** Stuart DORWARD (6½), Russell BEEDEN (6½)

Referee: Carlos GOUNMOL

Weather Conditions: Sunny & Dry

Attendance: 8



Report: For the second week in a row, our Reserves had the benefit of our First Team not having a match and were therefore able to field a side without key players being taken away from them to play for the First Team 'at the last minute'...in this case Lexton Harrison and Paul Rebaire (who would have been substitutes for the First Team), while First Team skipper Stuart Dorward was also able to help out as a Second Half substitute due to Jerome Harrison dropping out with Flu and also the non-appearance of Barry Matthews, Lee Bazzoni, Myron Mc,Kay, Sheriff Alagan & Foysol Ahmed for reasons best known to themselves (but probably Xmas Party/excess alcohol-related in some cases ?). Although the pitch was in perfectly playable condition (unlike our First Team's at Hazelwood this weekend), the game was almost called off at first as Referee Carlos Goumol turned up late, suffering from flu and without a whistle, pen, notepad and red & yellow cards ! Luckily though, with the First Team's game being called off, Trevor Hughes was in attendance and had a whistle in his 'F.A.

Coaching Holdall' and the game was able to commence...albeit at 10.45.a.m. instead of 10.30 !

As our players were all at the venue on time and out on the pitch warming up by 10.20.a.m. though, maybe it might have been an idea to give them a bit of coaching first in zonal marking from corners and in how to defend against set-pieces as they once again looked vulnerable from that, with White Hart Reserves taking the lead after 21 minutes when an unmarked Jason Seabrook headed in a whipped-in free kick at the near post, although Paul Rebaire was most at fault for giving away the free-kick in the first place with one of his usual needless silly wild challenges on an opponent who was in the process of over-running the ball out of play for our goal kick !!

Despite White Hart Reserves fielding just the bare eleven including Secretary Trevor Powell (who is presumably in his 40's and very rarely plays), we found it hard to get going in the First Half and had very few clear-cut chances, mainly because Mashood Burahee still doesn't know what 'offside' means...he was 30 yards offside on one occasion in the First Half because he thought he was still playing school playground / kickabout in the park football !? However, at least we defended quite well from open play with Matt Steell, Billy Burnham & Terry Deller all showing the benefit of playing together for the third League match in a row. Unfortunately though, the constant changes our Reserves have had to make in midfield and attack so far this season clearly hampered our chances of equalising and White Hart Reserves just about deserved their 1-0 lead at Half-Time.

However, we woke up a bit in the Second Half and started getting on top quite early on, but particularly when Stuart Dorward and Russell Beeden were brought on half-way through the half for the inexperienced Ali Ahmed and Mashood Burahee. We then started creating some good chances, but really didn't look like finishing them until Stuart Dorward became yet another First Team player to score one of the Reserves' goals for them this season when he fired in a loose ball low and hard from an acute angle inside the six-yard box to equalise in the 82nd minute after Matt Steell's shot had been blocked inside a crowded area. That goal came as a result of a long throw-in from Lexton Harrison (a recently discovered secret weapon of his !), although Lexton then went and wasted two other long throws by hurling them straight out of play for goal kicks (as if somebody was injured !) with most of our defenders up in attack waiting for the obvious near post flick-on from the giant figure of Brian Kamuteku. (At least Lexton's throw-ins travelled some distance though, unlike one of Ali Ahmed's attempts in the First Half when he somehow managed to throw the ball backwards like a Pakistani leg spinner over his head straight to an opponent (See picture left)...this sending our supporters on the touchline into hysterics and therefore nearly ending up as our Video Clip Of The Week !)

The game then really came to life after Stuart's goal though, with both sides going for a winner, and it looked as if White Hart Reserves had scored the decisive goal just two minutes later when Tom Bush fired in a shot from an acute angle after Darryl Johnson had parried his initial shot following a nightmare mistake by Terry Deller. Although Referee Goumol blew his whistle to signal a goal for Bush though, Billy Burnham actually appeared to stop the ball on the line (albeit

inadvertently with his arm) before White Hart's Karl Mc,Lean casually tapped in the loose ball while all his team mates were already over by the corner flag celebrating with Bush. In fact if it wasn't for those celebrations and the referee being influenced by them and signalling a goal, Lee Osborn would have (or *could* have !) easily cleared the loose ball away off the line after Burnham had stopped it and before Mc,Lean arrived !

Thankfully though we didn't give up after conceding such a silly goal, and Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay managed to equalise again in the 89th minute when he lobbed the ball past keeper Steve Nicholl after finding himself clean in on goal from Paul Rebairo's free-kick, but we then really should have won the game in Injury Time when Russell Beeden put Lexton Harrison clean through but his attempted chip didn't fool keeper Nicholl, who read Lexton's intentions and made an easy catch.

We therefore had to settle for a 2-2 draw in a game we really needed to win in our efforts to avoid relegation, and it was clear from this rather disappointing performance that the Reserves still have a lot to learn regarding teamwork before they can be comfortable playing in Division Four.

[CLICK HERE](#) to take a look at White Hart's Website for their Match Report.