

Sunday 7th September 2003

Mercury Waltham Sunday League (Division Four) Match at Bush Hill Park

EDMONTON ROVERS RESERVES	3	WHITE HART RESERVES	1	HT 0-0
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Cokell (52, 57, 84 mins.)

Seabrook (59 mins.)

Edmonton Rovers Reserves Line-Up (with Marks out of 10): Simon JACKSON (GK) (6½); Lee OSBORN (6), Gary ADAMSON (6½), Scott ROBERTSON (6½), Terry DELLER (6½); Barry MATTHEWS (8), Paul REBAIRO (7), Eric IBEKWEM (7½), Jerome HARRISON (7); Lexton HARRISON (7½), Steve COKELL (8) **Subs:** Ali AHMED (6), Russell BEEDEN (6)

White Hart Reserves Line-Up: Warren RIVERS (GK); Jim PARKER, Jamie COOK, John GAMBRILL, Dan BUSH; Matt BECKETT, Matt CHARLES, Tom BUSH, Jason SEABROOK; Mark NICOLL, Neil PURKISS **Sub.:** Paul MacDONALD

Referee: Peter JAGO

Weather Conditions: Hazy Sunshine

Attendance: 36



Report: After a good turn-out at training the Thursday before this match, we were looking forward to naming what we considered to be our first-choice squad of 14 for the Reserve Team's competitive debut in the Mercury Waltham Sunday League. However, Gary Odell then suddenly announced straight after training that he would be working overtime for the next few Sundays,



while Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay and Myron Mc,Kay both pulled out on Saturday afternoon due to Family Commitments and a Knee Injury respectively. With only Mashood Burahee or Russell Beeden being available from our prospective Reserve Team players to come into the starting eleven and replace them, we therefore had no option but to call up a couple of First Team players in Eric Ibekwem and Steve Cokell who would be able to play a full match instead of just five minutes ! (Fortunately, it was just as well that the First Team did not have a match arranged for this date, as we had so many players unavailable in the end...or not registered in time...that we would have fielded just a bare eleven for both teams with no linesman for the Reserves and Laurence Hughes having to play again !). Despite the presence of Cokell & Ibekwem though, we found it difficult to get going early on in this match and it was White Hart Reserves who had the better chances in a scoreless First Half as they took advantage of the fact that our back four were still trying to work out each other's games...and Trevor Hughes's 'Club Policy' regarding defending !? Fortunately for us though, White Hart's finishing was woeful, with a number of shots going high or wide when they should have easily hit the target. In fact, we came closer ourselves to breaking the deadlock in the First Half as Barry Matthews twice forced White Hart keeper Warren Rivers into good saves, the first from a long-range effort and the second from a one-on-one. Not surprisingly though, it was First Team regular Steve Cokell who opened the scoring in the 52nd minute with a good finish in a one-on-one from Simon Jackson's long clearance, although the fact that White Hart's Linesman was even more asleep than *our* Linesman (Brian Kamuteku !) undoubtedly helped, as most of our 20-plus supporters on the touchline agreed that Cokell should have been flagged for offside. However, a good shot from the edge of the area just 5 minutes later saw Cokell grab his and our second, but White Hart then pulled a goal back to make it 2-1 just two minutes after that when Jason Seabrook sliced a left-wing cross into the far top corner to give Simon Jackson little chance. Instead of our inexperienced players panicking though, we then had our best spell of the match with the pace of Barry Matthews and Lexton Harrison causing White Hart's defenders all sorts of problems, only to let themselves down badly with their finishing, one example of which is currently a 'classic' [Video Clip Of The Week](#) ! It was therefore left to Steve Cokell to make the game safe in the 84th minute when he pounced on a mistake in the White Hart defence from another Simon Jackson long clearance and finished easily for his hat-trick and an eventual 3-1 victory for us.

[CLICK HERE](#) to have a look at White Hart's website.