

Sunday 3rd December 2017

Barnet Sunday League Junior Cup First Round Match at the Edmonton Sports & Social Club (Pitch One)

Kick-Off: 10.33.a.m. (*Referee forgot his Linesman's flags*)

Result: EDMONTON ROVERS..... 0 ZENIT ST. WHETSTONE 6 *Half-Time: 0-3*

SHIRT NUMBER	TEAM (4-2-3-1)		GOAL TIMES
1	GK	Stephen ROUSSETY	
2	RB	Lexton HARRISON	
20	CB	Tyronne PETRIE	
5	CB	Harold OFORI (Captain)	
19	LB/ACM 50	Anees IKRAMULLAH	
15	CM Holding	Ivan BASS	OFF 74
10	CM Holding	Curtis BAALAM	OFF 74
11	RM/LM 10/ACM HT/LM 48	Tre MAXWELL	
7	ACM/LM HT	Ben CULORA	OFF 48
12	LM/RM 10	Tom CROAKE	OFF 68
16	CF	Rhys McKAY	

SUBSTITUTES

3	ACM	Taurean BRYAN	ON 48
18	LM	Vishal PATEL	ON 68
8	CM Holding	Andreas KRITICOS	ON 74
17	CM Holding	Jamie MEHMET	ON 74

OWN GOALS Scored For Us:

MANAGER: Tony McKay

CLUB LINESMAN: Bob Cleary

ATTENDANCE: 19

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: L.Hughes, R.Bennett, T.Hughes, A.Barnard, K.McKenzie, C.Lue

REFEREE: Michael McPherson

BOOKINGS: None

SENDING-OFFS: None

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Drizzle. No wind.

STATE OF PITCH: Soft & muddy, but otherwise perfect

UNAVAILABILITY: (13 Players) Grant Baker (GK) (*Working*), Leon McKenzie-McKay (*Broken Ankle*), Ayo Matthews (*Hamstring Injury*), Daniel Daley (*Injured*), Jack Bangs (*Working*), George House (*Foot Injury*), Tobi Michaels (*Toe Injury*), Josh Odukoya (*Other Commitments*), Aiden Kavanagh (*Uni/Futsal*), Miles Levy (*Other Commitments*), Khaheem McKenzie (*'Not Fit'*), Chris Kriticos (*Other Commitments*) **Sunday Morning Drop-Outs:** Daniel Cascoe (*'No Show'*)

OPPONENTS' LINE-UP (4-4-2): 1. Andy Shoreman (GK); 2. Matt Berou (RB), 15. Ricardo Biggi (CB), 5. Andy Dowell (CB), 16. Ally Larman (LB); 23. Stuart Fricker (RM), 21. Jamie Stevens (CM), 6. Scott Buddington (Captain...CM), 12. Tim Jolly (LM); 10. Lee Mercer (CF), 9. Luke Griffin (CF)

Subs.: 7. Scott Little (*On for Fricker - 57 Mins.*), 11. Andy Taylor (*On for Stevens - 68 Mins.*), 14. Umberto Loda (*On for Jolly -76 Mins.*)

OPPONENTS' GOALSCORERS: Biggi (2, 84 Mins.), Mercer (33, 86 Mins.), Jolly (36, 47 Mins.)

MATCH REPORT

This League Junior Cup match was our last chance of winning a trophy this season, but despite that, 13 of our players still decided to make themselves unavailable for selection. Admittedly that was mainly due to injuries, but of course we never had anything like this last season when we were winning every match, so a failure to win in our previous seven matches before this one probably had something to do with it. Our biggest problem was that we only had four attacking players available, all of whom had only played together once before and who hardly knew each other. With everybody else being a defender or a defensive midfielder, we ended up playing for the whole 90 minutes with a 4-2-4 formation where our forwards pressed but our defenders and two holding midfielders sat deep, leaving a massive gap in midfield for Zenit St. Whetstone's fired-up players to create havoc all game. With our opponents having won six out of six in Division Two and fielding a much stronger side than normal, it wasn't a surprise when they went 1-0 up after just two minutes when a cross was allowed to come in from the right through a crowd of players for defender Ricardo Biggi to head in on the goal-line after staying up in attack following a corner. However, it took Zenit until the 33rd minute to make it 2-0 when Lexton Harrison failed to clear the ball properly after another corner and Lee Mercer finished easily from close range after a scramble in the area. We then went 3-0 down just three minutes later when keeper Stephen Roussety spilled a catch from a harmless-looking cross and allowed Tim Jolly to prod the ball in on the goal-line, and there was no way back for us from that with us unable to test Zenit keeper Andy Shoreman at all in the First Half. Manager Tony McKay brought on all four available substitutes at various stages of the Second Half, but that was after we went 4-0 down in the 47th minute after several Zenit players walked through some feeble challenges before Jolly scored his second of the game with a good low finish. Although the substitutes that came on for us thereafter were all defensive players, we did at least show a bit more effort for the rest of the Second Half and have a few shots at goal, but Zenit's players were always far more clinical, and defender Biggi made it 5-0 in the 84th minute with a far post header after none of our players had bothered to go over and stop a short corner being taken, then forward Mercer rounded off the scoring with a sixth goal just two minutes later with a fiercely-struck shot into the far corner after his fellow striker Luke Griffin had dribbled round our defenders with various F2 Freestylers tricks for the umpteenth time in the match. Unfortunately this game was like far too many we suffered in our Waltham Sunday League dark days where we were completely outclassed for teamwork, and with so many key players missing at the moment, we have a lot of players who are going to have to learn very quickly how to play 11-a-side tactically in order for us to stop the rot.