

**Sunday 27th April 2003**

Mercury Waltham Sunday League Premier Division Match at Brimsdown Rovers F.C. (Goldsdown Road)

<b>EDMONTON ROVERS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>BRIMSDOWN ROVERS</b>	<b>0</b>	HT 0-0
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**Edmonton Rovers Line-Up (with Marks out of 10):** Darryl JOHNSON (GK) ( 7 ); Chidi IBEKWEM ( 6½ ), Tony SPELLER ( 8 ), Robin PRYKE ( 8 ), Steve BEASLEY ( 8 ); Derek DORWARD ( 7 ), Marco ELLERKER ( 8 ), Paul ELLERKER ( 8 ), Chris 'Nugget' BEEDEN ( 7 ), Eric IBEKWEM ( 7 ); Steve COKELL ( 7 ) **Subs:** John BEASLEY ( 8 ), Peter SUTTON ( 6½ ), Lexton HARRISON ( 6 )

**Brimsdown Rovers Line-Up** Mark VIRGO (GK); Luke COLLINS, Jim DICKINSON, Aaron BULLOCK, Matt MARSTON; Barry WARD, Brian BOEHMER, Danny BATES, Billy WINGROVE; Peter ULATOWSKI, Mark ULATOWSKI **Sub.:** Nicky GOODHEW

**Referee:** Nishan DEGNARAIN

**Weather Conditions:** Cloudy but Dry

**Attendance:** 25

**Report:** One of the first questions asked in the bar after this match was 'When was the last time we were involved in a goal-less draw ?', the answer being...February 1999 at Home to Red Star Bell Lane in a League Intermediate Cup match (when we fielded only 10 men and a certain Laurence Hughes had to play !). In fact we also drew 0-0 with Data in a Division Two match that season, but on both of those occasions it was because both ourselves and the opposition were 'crap' and nobody on the pitch was good enough (or sober enough ?) to create any decent chances. On this occasion though, it was very much the opposite, as both ourselves and Brimsdown came into this match fielding quality and 'in-form' players who were currently at the top of their game and treating things very seriously with either the Premier Division Title or the Runners-Up spot at stake.

Apart from midfielders Barry Ward and Brian Boehmer, Brimsdown were fielding the same starting line-up that won the League Senior Cup recently so it appeared that they may have only been missing two first-choice players in Lee Teagle and Paul Dodd, while they also had a record of having only lost twice all season (one of those defeats being against us !) and having only conceded four goals in their last seven matches. However, we were without our two first-choice central defenders in Stuart Dorward and Paul Woolston, 'Wooly' having had a re-occurrence of the 'dizzy spells' he suffered from during our match Away to Broxbourne Rangers back in January when he had to be taken to Hospital at Half-Time. When the much-improved Chidi Ibekwem then limped off with an achilles injury after just 15 minutes we were rather worried that our own brilliant defensive record of having only conceded one goal in our last four Premier Division matches might get torn to shreds. However, John Beasley had fortunately agreed to take time off his studying commitments to be named as a substitute because of the importance of this match and he came on to do another excellent job as a stand-in left back while his brother Steve switched to right-back to mark Brimsdown's main dangerman Billy 'Whizz' Wingrove...a mismatch in pace if ever there was one, especially with Wingrove being a regular for Ware in the Ryman League and Steve being a regular down On Broadway !? Amazingly though, despite Beasley moaning about us having to use Brimsdown's full-size 'Senior Saturday League' pitch for our Home game (because it was twice the size of Hazelwood or Enfield Playing Fields and it meant more running for him), he somehow managed to use his experience to keep Wingrove fairly quiet all game while Robin Pryke also did an excellent marking job on Brimsdown skipper Peter Ulatowski (who had scored a hat-trick for Enfield Town earlier in the week and was also in their Essex Senior League Championship-winning starting line-up the day before). In fact our usual 4-5-1 formation and 'defensive' tactics worked perfectly again, as Darryl Johnson ended up keeping a clean sheet once again without having to make any sort of diving save whatsoever, even though Brimsdown forced numerous corners and had quite a few half-chances and well-struck long-range shots as a result of constant pressure. As in most of our matches though (no matter who the opposition are), we still conjured up at least four clear-cut chances on the break although this time we failed to take any of them with Brimsdown's giant keeper Mark Virgo performing heroics to save two of them with his legs in one-on-one situations with Derek Dorward and Chris 'Nugget' Beeden, while he also made another good diving save at his near post to keep out a 'snapshot' from 'Nugget' and generally imposed himself as a formidable barrier whenever we got near the Brimsdown goal, which admittedly wasn't very often ! However, we really should have won the game with the last kick of the match when substitute Lexton Harrison caught a defender in possession and headed towards goal only to pass up the option to shoot low and hard across the keeper when ideally positioned and therefore hit an badly overhit pass straight off for a goal-kick with 'Nugget' (and to a lesser extent Tony Speller) completely unmarked right in front of goal !

With Percival beating Sporting 6-1, this result therefore gifted Percival the title, but it was a good result for us in terms of our chances of finishing as Runners-Up in our first season in the Premier Division and this performance and our previous two Premier Division victories against Percival and Enfield Rangers Old Boys certainly confirmed that we now rightly belong in this sort of company and can hopefully continue as a regular Top Three side.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read Brimsdown Rovers' Match Report of this game on their website.