

Sunday 3rd November 2002

Mercury Waltham Sunday League Premier Division Match at Pound Close, Hoddesdon

BROXBOURNE RANGERS O.B.	2	EDMONTON ROVERS	2	HT 1-1
18, 63 mins.		Mc,Govern (21, 82 mins.)		

Broxbourne Rangers Old Boys Line-Up: No Team details available

Edmonton Rovers Line-Up (with Marks out of 10): Shaun O'NEILL (GK) (6½); Steve BEASLEY (6½), Paul WOOLSTON (7), Tony SPELLER (6½), Lee OSBORN (6½); Chidi IBEKWEM (7), Stuart DORWARD (7), Chris 'Nugget' BEEDEN (7½), Marco ELLERKER (6½), Derek DORWARD (7); Conor Mc,GOVERN (8) **Subs:** John BEASLEY (7), Eric IBEKWEM (7)

Referee: Mark MORRIS **Weather Conditions:** Dry & Mainly Sunny **Attendance:** 19

Report: We last played Broxbourne Rangers Old Boys back in January 1999 when they were then known as Broxbourne Rangers' First Team. (They split from the rest of the Broxbourne Rangers set-up at the end of that season because their players wanted to continue playing their home games at Pound Close in Hoddesdon rather than move the club's base to Flamstead End Playing Fields in Cheshunt). Since that occasion (when we beat them 6-3 at Hazelwood), Broxbourne Rangers Old Boys have become an average mid-table Premier Division team who have been fielding the same players for years but are now starting to struggle for numbers...as was indicated by their bottom-of-the-table position before this match and the sight of them starting the game with only nine men !

As for ourselves, we had quite a strong side out with three good substitutes available, but we were unable to get an early goal before Broxbourne Rangers Old Boys' 10th & 11th players arrived onto the pitch after 13 minutes. The blank scoreline at that stage was partly due to their goalkeeper (who our own Shaun O'Neill seemed to know from somewhere !?) as he went on to have an outstanding match, making at least 10 brilliant saves with Conor Mc,Govern the main one to suffer. In fact Conor ended up having 10 shots at goal in total (6 of which were on target), most of them as a result of excellent team moves or clever through balls from Chris 'Nugget' Beeden. Indeed it was from one of 'Nugget's set-ups in the 21st minute that Conor managed to equalise from close range after Broxbourne Rangers Old Boys had taken the lead three minutes earlier when a forward easily turned Lee Osborn and fired low and hard into the far bottom corner. Apart from that though, Shaun O'Neill's goal was only threatened on one other occasion in the First Half when a 'mis-hit ?' looping shot rebounded off the crossbar after about 30 minutes. However, we created (and missed) numerous chances ourselves and that continued into the Second Half, only for Broxbourne Rangers Old Boys to go 2-1 up in the 63rd minute with another clinical finish on the break after we had been caught out pushing too many men forward. The introduction of substitutes John Beasley & Eric Ibeqwem for Chris Beeden & Lee Osborn then saw us create even more chances but the only one we could take was in the 82nd minute when Conor Mc,Govern scored with an unstoppable close-range overhead kick from Eric Ibeqwem's cross and we therefore had to settle for a 2-2 draw in the end.

Although some of our players were criticising each other during and after the match for making various mistakes which could have contributed to the disappointing scoreline, we still played some quality football for the large majority of the match and if it had not been for 'Mr. X' in the Broxbourne Rangers Old Boys goal we would have won by at least a five-goal margin and everyone would have been happy.