Sunday 30th March 2003					
Mercury Waltham Sunday League Premier Division Match at Hazelwood Sports Ground					
EDMONTON ROVERS	**2**	**PERCIVAL**	**0**		HT 1-0
Cokell (16 mins) *Payne (Own Goal) (80 mins)*					

Edmonton Rovers Line-Up (with Marks out of 10): Darryl JOHNSON (GK) (7½); Chidi IBEKWEM (7½), Stuart DORWARD (8), Robin PRYKE (8), Steve BEASLEY (7½); Derek DORWARD (7½), Marco ELLERKER (7½), Paul ELLERKER (7½), Chris 'Nugget' BEEDEN (8), Eric IBEKWEM (7½); Steve COKELL (8) ***Subs:*** Peter SUTTON (7½), Lexton HARRISON (7), Tony SPELLER (7)

Percival's Line-Up: Michael HAYES (GK); Richard DAGGER, Steve RITTER, Ian BARNES, Martin PAYNE; Paul CHRISTODOULOU, Alex CLARKE, Paul WEAVER; Dave RUSSELL; Danny HARDY, Dave WILTON ***Subs.:*** Ian HILLIER, Matthew HOCKLEY

Referee: Eddie WEBB	***Weather Conditions:*** Sunny & Warm	***Attendance:*** 34

Report: We came into this 'local derby' against our fellow 'On Broadway drinkers, old schoolmates & Premier Division Title contenders' Percival with a record of eight consecutive wins under our belts and having only conceded two goals in open play in our last six matches, so to extend both those records against a side who enter the F.A. National Sunday Cup and invariably finish in the top two in the Premier Division every season was an excellent achievement. That was made even more so with influential defender Paul Woolston absent due to a family bereavement, but as has happened so often during our long winning run, another player has stepped in and performed equally as well, if not better...in this case Robin Pryke, who in tandem with the equally impressive Stuart Dorward almost completely snuffed out Percival's bold attacking formation (which included a tactic of playing former Rovers Prague Tour party member Dave Russell behind their front two in an effort to put pressure on Paul Ellerker, who was our designated midfield holding player for the day). In fact Percival's best chance of the match came as early as the fourth minute (while we were still working out what they were doing) as Danny Hardy hit the foot of the post after catching us square at the back, but once Steve Cokell put us 1-0 up after 16 minutes with a clinical first-time shot in a on-on-one after running onto Chris 'Nugget' Beeden's headed through ball, we were more or less in control for the rest of the match.

The rest of the First Half was mainly the 'usual' semi-boring 'keep it tight and don't give anything silly away' tactics as far as we were concerned but the Second Half saw us turn on the style a bit as we dominated possession and really passed the ball about superbly with Marco Ellerker now releasing the ball a bit more quickly as a result of a sudden urge to turn up to training and have 'three-touch' drilled into him !?. However, our biggest problem during our good run of form has been a lack of goals as a reward for our build-up play and once again we were guilty of passing up too many good shooting opportunities from the edge of the area by over-elaborating too much, or by over-hitting crosses and under-hitting close-range shots straight at keeper Michael Hayes. It therefore required Percival 'defender' Martin Payne to show our forwards how to do it when he bundled Steve Cokell's cross into his own net under pressure from Derek Dorward to put us 2-0 up in the 80th minute and we were never going to get anything other than the three points after that as Percival lost their shape and their discipline as they seemed to want to blame referee Webb for their predicament...even though it was *us* that suffered from Mr. Webb's biggest mistake of the match...when he blew his whistle too early for a free-kick in our favour and failed to play the advantage when Steve Cokell had gone clean through on goal. In fact Percival ended up having only one real clear-cut chance during the Second Half when the ever-improving Darryl Johnson had to make a good save with his legs from a close-range Dave Russell header and was fortunate to see the rebound wasted by the onrushing Paul Weaver, but that was just about their only shot of the Second Half and they were gracious enough in defeat afterwards to admit we were by far the better side as we put an end to their unbeaten record in the Premier Division this season.