

06/12/05 TT No.127: *Barry Neighbour* - Cray Valley PM (Kent County League Premier Division) in KST2

Saturday 3rd December 2005 Cray Valley (PM) 5 Faversham Town 0 (AET) Kent Senior Trophy 2nd Round 3* Attendance: about 30; 16-page programme included in £3 admission.

Cray's ground is easy to find by public transport. Coming out of Mottingham Station turn left and then left again into Middle Park Avenue where buses run every 12 minutes stopping right outside Badgers Sports Ground. There is a small clubhouse with big screen telly and a tea bar. On my visit bacon and burgers (a bit greasy!) were on sale. The ground itself just has a solid rail down one side with no access to the other three sides for spectators. Two other pitches are squeezed in on the far side.

After a lively first-half where both teams had chances, it was Cray who come closest, hitting the bar. A half time downpour made conditions heavy going and the game deteriorated as a spectacle. Faversham seemed to gain the upper hand twice hitting the woodwork, the last came from being a goalmouth scramble in the final minute; the ball fell to an attacker some 3 yards out and with an open goal in front of him he completely missed the ball. Cray rode their luck and just managed to scramble the ball away as the final whistle went. Faversham were made to pay for this miss as Cray took the lead in the first period of extra-time. This seemed to knock all the fight out of Faversham and incredibly Cray ran in another 4 goals during the final period as the conditions worsened. A friendly club, certainly worth a visit.

04/20