

10/08/05 TT No.14: *Barry Neighbour* - Beaconsfield SYCOB (Southern League)

Monday 8th August saw me visit Beaconsfield SYCOB for the advertised friendly against a Wycombe XI. Unfortunately, on arrival I was informed that due to other commitments Wycombe had pulled out but a game went ahead with Hellenic League side Ardley United providing late replacements. Due to the late switch no programme or team sheet was available and Beaconsfield still charged £5 for the privilege. On the plus side the game was lively from the off with Beaconsfield taking a 10th minute lead with a cracking free-kick which flew past the wall. Ardley equalized in the 2nd half with a well-placed lob leaving the goalkeeper stranded. A last-minute diving header clinched victory for the home side in front of a disappointing crowd of 30. They could have expected at least another 100 if Wycombe had made it and with the admission plus extras like food and bar takings probably lost out on another potential £1000. If they draw each other in the cup watch out for fireworks (as many tackles were OTT). The ground has certainly improved since my first visit in the Eighties when still known as Beaconsfield United with a smart modern clubhouse replacing the old wooden one and the ground fully enclosed with a spacious stand with plenty of leg room which included a separate area for directors and its own press room. It was also concreted all the way round although I did notice a sign on the way home charging £1 for the Car Park; visitors beware! Match Rating 4*.

03/20