

10/01/06 TT No.156: *Barry Neighbour* - Hounslow Borough (Hellenic League Division 1 East)

Saturday 7th January 2006. Having to collect some of my family from Heathrow on Saturday afternoon, I managed to watch a local game in Osterley; Hounslow Borough 3 Penn & Tylers Green 2; Hellenic League Division 1 East; 20-page programme; Match Rating 3*; Attendance 19.

Hounslow play in Wood Lane on the old Pyreene Sports Ground and are based at The Conquest Club. This is a shabby looking building; on my visit the toilets were flooded (due to a roof leak). There was no hot drinks nor food available. The complex has five pitches including one on the far side by The White Lodge Club where the club used to play under their previous guise as Harrow Hill Rovers. This is now a junior pitch. Work is progressing on the current pitch which is fully railed and has hardstanding around 3/4 of the pitch. A new structure (stand) has been erected which provides seating but would be more impressive with a roof to protect you from the elements.

Penn & Tylers started the game on top form when a ball over the full back split the home defence and the winger's cross was side-footed in to put the visitors one up within about 20 seconds. Hounslow have reputedly spent a great amount on their team; former QPR forward Michael Meaker led the line but kept finding himself caught in an offside position. This naturally caused him to voice his opinions at every opportunity. This was a habit picked up by his colleagues who constantly put the officials under pressure with their whinging and resulted in a clutch of yellow cards for their troubles. Meaker did show off his talents on one occasion when he did manage to stay onside to hold off a challenge and fire in the equalizer after 25 minutes, his 25th goal of the season. Just before half-time his class shone through again with a sublime 40-yard pass which fell beyond the Penn defence and the low cross was converted to give Hounslow a 2-1 lead at the interval. With constant moaning from the Hounslow players I found myself willing the young Penn & Tylers' team to grab an equalizer but alas it was not to be as Hounslow scored a 3rd just before time to wrap up the points. Penn had the final say with a late consolation deep into injury time but it was too little too late. Over on an adjacent pitch a Middlesex League Division 1 game took place between Ealing and Brazilian Sports Club. The crowd was 7 but reduced to 4 when the Hounslow game kicked off quarter of an hour later. For the record Brazilian Sports won 3-1 and there was no programme.