

23/01/06 TT No.163: Paul Roth - Sandridge Rovers (Herts Senior County League)

Sandridge Rovers vs. Whitewebbs; Sat 22/01/06 Herts County League Prem Division: Res: 0-3; Att:50; Programme £1 (12 pages).

After trying to get along to see Codicote FC for the second time of asking and again finding their match off, I had to hurry down to Sandridge for their Herts senior County league match against run away leaders Whitewebbs. Their picturesque ground is just off the main through road (B651), 2 miles north of St Albans. A small car park leads round to the club pavilion and in turn this leads to the pitch proper which has railings on 3 sides and just roping on the far. This far side backs onto rolling hills with pastures in the fore ground with horses frolicking there in; a veritable scene of countryside-ish-ness(?). A small clubhouse hosts a bar, and at half time had tea and coffee dispensed from a table set up for the purpose, but no food of any type, not even a Mars bar! In here I perused the 12-page programme - more than adequate fare this for the level of football.

The game itself hinged on the visitors scoring at critical times, 30 seconds after kick off at the start of each half to be exact! Luckier teams than Sandridge Rovers would have got at least a point out this game, but try as they might and they did have lots of chances, the homesters just could not get the ball in their opponent's net. This is not to say Whitewebbs didn't deserve their win as they created a lot themselves, but the difference on the day was they took everything they created to go back to Enfield 3 more points nearer the championship that must surely be theirs bar the shouting. One strange thing during the first half was the ref asking the home side to change shirts as their black and white stripes were, in his opinion, clashing with the visitors blue and white ones. The odd thing was he took 30 mins to deem it necessary for the swap!

A super venue, a cracking game played at a high tempo on a lovely winter's afternoon, what more could one want? I'll tell you what...to eventually be able to go and see Codicote at home! Don't mention the "C" word to me for a while.

FGIF rating: 3*.

04/20