

12/02/06 TT No.176: *Dennis Woods* - Bovington (Herts Senior County League Division)

On Saturday Steven Crawley and I drove to Great Missenden station to pick up fellow hopper Peter Franks. Our plan was to see Prestwood play Rayners Lane in the Hellenic League East Division. As the weather was fine and dry, we thought that there was no need to contact the club to check the fixture. What a big mistake that turned out to be. On driving into the car park, we noticed a lack of cars and corner flags and our worst nightmare was confirmed by the receptionist at the leisure centre telling us that the game had been called off, early in the morning by the referee as the pitch was frozen. I won't make too much of a comment here other than to say he obviously didn't look at the temperature predicted later in the day and if the pitch had been any softer, we would have sunk in it. So, we looked at another venue.

We got the thumbs up from Bovington and headed there, making their 2:45 kick off with 10 minutes to spare (for the game against St. Peters). Bovington are currently in the Herts Senior League Division One. A good 16-page programme was issued for 50p and no admission was taken for the match itself. A large covered stand with bench type seating was much better than expected. A smallest clubhouse was only open after the game and rolls and cups of tea were available at half time. We travelled by car but I believe the Hemel Hempstead to Watford bus passes quite close to the ground.

Bovington scored the only goal after 7 minutes, but had both sides not finished so poorly it could have easily been 3-2. A crowd of 18 were present. Thank you Bovington for saving our day. As for Prestwood, I think we will phone to confirm the fixture next time. For those using public transport. The nearest station to Prestwood is Great Missenden and it is about a 2 mile walk up a very steep hill.

04/20