

14/08/05 TT No. 18: *Paul Roth - Tongham (CCL1)*

Tongham v Bookham: Combined Counties Lge. 1st Div.; Saturday 13/08/05; Res: 0-2; Programme £2.

After visiting Derby County last week -- an experience I couldn't say I enjoyed much - it was great to get back to the non-league scene.my first choice match at Debenham had been scuppered earlier in the week as their match had been switched to Cornard as their ground is not quite ready (a bit like Margates'!!), so I settled on Tongham for their first senior match versus Bookham.

Their Poyle road ground is about half a mile off the A31, just past the Hogs Back brewery. In essence it is just a big field with a cricket pitch and a kiddie's play area. When I arrived even the goalposts weren't up! The pitch is roped off and a bit of hard standing has been laid the length of the far side and a pair of new bright red dugouts installed, necessary work to get them elevated to this level. Entry was £2 which came with a basic 12-page programme.

The clubhouse only had tea, crisps and beer on offer but there are shops only 300 yards down the road in the village.

In pouring rain and in front of quite a few regular faces, the two teams produced a pretty good game, with the visitors always just edging things and taking two well-made goals without reply.

If, as I do, a good pub is a pre requisite for a complete day out, then driving a further 5 miles on just past Farnham to Wrecclesham, is a real must. Here the "Bat and Ball" and the "Sandrock" are two of the finest pubs you could ever hope to find anywhere. Two real gems.

Basic, yes but very enjoyable, and very much preferable to all the hype of Derby County last Saturday!

03/20