

22/02/06 TT No.184: *Barry Neighbour* - Charlton Athletic (Premiership) in the FAC5 and Celtic SC (Luton) in the FASC5.

With Brentford reaching the FA Cup 5th Round for the second consecutive season I made a rare excursion into the Premier League on Saturday 18th February 2006 **Charlton Athletic 3 Brentford 1 FA Cup 5th Round. Attendance:22098 Entertainment:3* Programme 52 Pages for a very reasonable £2.**

My last visit to The Valley was in about 1988 v Stoke for their last game before development. It has certainly changed with the stands fully enclosed around the pitch but I did feel a bit of nostalgia remembering the biggest terracing in the country. Bees cup dream lasted precisely 3 minutes - the time it took Darren Bent to find space behind the Brentford defence to fire home the opening goal. The second from Boothroyd's free kick came on half-time and was Charlton's only third shot on target, although this was three more than the Bees could muster. Even when Charlton got a third, Brentford more than held their own and created the better chances with Myhre making excellent stops from Owusu and Tabb before Rankin fired in a consolation. Sodje hit the post in the final minute but it was the Premiership boys from South London who went through to land their 4th Consecutive Home game in the Quarter Finals against Middlesbrough.

The next day I drove up to Luton: Sunday 19th February 2006 **Celtic SC (Luton) v St Josephs (Luton) FA Sunday Cup 5th Round. Played at: The 61 FC Luton. Programme 20 Pages included in £1 Admission.**

As one local put it this was The Vatican Cup Final with these two great Irish based rivals drawn against each other in the National Cup Quarter Finals. The programme revealed that Celtic were second and St Joseph's fourth in the Premier Division of the North Home Counties Sunday League. Previous encounters this season gave Celtic the edge with a 2-0 victory and progress in the cup (4-3 on penalties after a 2-2 draw). A healthy crowd of over 300 saw tensions running high and the first clash after 3 minutes looked ominous. But the Referee kept a tight grip on the game as both sides cancelled each other out although St Josephs had the better chances. At the end of 90 minutes, the game remained goalless and extra time ensued. A free kick conceded by Celtic for a needless hand ball on the edge of the area proved costly as the St Joseph's player curled the ball into the net just inside the post. This was the decisive goal and it was St Joseph's (twice previous winners) who progressed to the semi-final stage.