

TT No.198: Paul Roth - Saturday 18th March 2006 **Glapwell** vs. Sheffield FC; NECL Prem Div. Res: 0-0; Att: 80ish; Entry: £5; Programme: 36 pages £1.

A very early start was needed yesterday in order to get up to Chesterfield by 11.30 to have time to visit some of the pubs featured in this years' GBG, and then to bus it over to Glapwell 7 miles away.

I had never before had a drink in Chesterfield, as when we were doing the football league Saltergate was visited in the morning as part of a double header. The town is a bit faded around the edges but the colourful market slap bang in the middle enhanced what was otherwise a dreary and bitterly cold day.

With the pubs ticked off I got the distinctive mauve coloured "Pronto" bus from the bus station over to Glapwell and alighted at the oddly named Young Vanish inn (named after a famous local racehorse I was told). Hall Corner, the home of Glapwell FC, is just 2 mins. walk away around the corner. And what a lovely place it is too, again just the sort of ground we 'hoppers love, tight and compact.

I paid my £5 and entered the ground through the rickety turnstile (see photo) and £1 for the superlative 36 page programme....a true labour of love this and undoubtedly the best issue I have had all season, with so much info crammed into it (I'm still reading it this morning !) and went for a beer in the old fashioned but cosy clubhouse and availed myself of pie and peas from the canteen.

The ground is, as I said very tight, with the stands on both sides of the pitch almost encroaching onto the field of play. These stands and the wall at the far end of the ground are painted predominantly white with some black...the club's colours, and this helps to give the place a more enclosed feel than it already has. Hard standing surrounds the whole pitch and behind that far goal there is just enough room for two rows depth of supporters. Very antiquated black and white goal nets continue the colour scheme. The club has floodlights of course, but the pylons are very rusty.

The game itself was very hard fought and a bruising contest, with neither side really being able to prize an opening. In the end a goalless draw was a fair result and by no means the worst nil-nil I have ever seen.

At the final whistle I retraced my footsteps back into town and caught the 18.40 back to St Pancras, after enjoying an excellent fish supper. Out of interest I booked my trip on thetrainline.com about a month ago (a bit risky I know given the weather lately), and bought two singles; I paid £10.50 for the outward leg of my journey and just £6 for the return. It shows that train travel can be cheap if you get in at the right time.

A great day out, but now I must get back to that tome of a programme and finish reading it!

FGIF rating 4* Train day so: 14558 steps

04/20