

TT No.207 - Barry Neighbour - Saturday 1st April 2006; **Coventry Copsewood 2** Highgate United 1; Midland Combination Premier Division; 36-page programme £1; Attendance: about 40; FGIF Match Rating: 2*.

Travellers to **Coventry Copsewood FC** (formerley known as Marconi), will find that there is a small stand on the far side of the ground and covering behind one goal; the near side, adjacent to the cricket pitch, is open. The game itself was poor affair with the first actual save coming on the hour. Both teams had chances in the first half but the finishing was pretty woeful. The game had 0-0 written all over. It certainly looked this way until Copeswood suddenly showed a bit of form in the last 20 minutes, taking the lead with a follow up after the keeper blocked a one-on-one. Highgate equalised 10 minutes from time when a free kick was headed back into the area for a simple tap in. Copeswood deservedly took the spoils with a late penalty to win a dour game.

Afterwards I made the short trip to see **Coventry Sphinx Reserves 2** Shipston Excelsior Reserves 2 in the Midland Combination Division 3. The attendance was 14 (headcount) and the match earned a 4* rating. Although a programme wasn't issued, I did pick up a copy of the 36-page first team game v Dudley Sports played earlier in the afternoon.

The 6.15pm kick off allowed me plenty of time to make it a comfortable 'double'. In contrast to the afternoon match at Copsewood both sides played some open attacking football and the action switched from end to end, resulting in a great game of football. An early goal for the visitors gave them confidence and despite Sphinx creating a number of chances it was Shipston who doubled their advantage after 30 minutes when a free kick was whipped into the area to be met by the head of the unmarked forward, giving the keeper no chance. Sphinx threw everything at Shipston in the second half and a counter-attack allowed them to get back into the game after 70 minutes. Five minutes later it was all square after the Sphinx substitute was brought down in the area and the resultant penalty made it 2-2. The Shipston perpetrator saw the red card for his efforts. Sphinx could not find the winner and so a thoroughly entertaining game ended level. This was certainly a lot more exciting than the previous game earlier in the day and 'Hoppers should not be put off by the fact it is a Reserve team fixture - the teams are usually young and enthusiastic! Overall, another great day out.