

**18/08/05 TT No.22: Barry Neighbour - Chobham (CCL1) & Guildford Utd (CCLP)**

Tuesday 16th August 2005 **Chobham** 1 Tongham 4 - Combined Counties League Division 1; 8 Page Programme £1

Having seen Farnborough North End v Hythe & Dibden called off due to Hythe not wanting to travel for a 6.30pm kick off (don't these clubs realise they will get these, kind of fixtures, when they enter the league?) I chose to go to Chobham as an alternative. On a sunny evening which needed a stop at the Sun Inn before the game I sat on a bench to mark the 50th Anniversary of VJ Day ironic that this very week was the 60th Anniversary. The Football ground has not altered hardly at all in the 20 odd years since my last visit when they were still in the Surrey League apart from the loss of their old unique stand which was like a small bike shed and everyone including the subs had huddled into I recall (no dug outs 20 years ago). It is basically a roped off pitch in a recreation ground, although elsewhere on the ground are new council offices and 5-a-side artificial pitch. The clubhouse was open and I was surprised to see food on sale from the kitchen. The cheeseburger went down well.

This was Tonghams 1st away game at this level and they certainly looked a lot sharper than the home side. Tongham took a 10th minute lead with a far post header and soon doubled their tally with a screamer which left the keeper rooted to the spot. It was surprising Tongham had not increased the tally by the break as they were well on top. Chobham must have had the proverbial 'kick up the bum' at half-time as they looked a lot more competitive in the 2nd half and pulled a goal back early in the half and started causing Tongham problems. Any hope of a comeback however was to diminish when they had a player sent off for inexplicably kicking out at a Tongham player on the ground in front of the referee. To prove a point their indiscipline saw them concede a penalty 2 minutes later which Tongham duly converted to go 3-1 up. Tongham scored a 4th just before time to wrap up the points. A good game worthy of 4\*.

Wednesday 17th August 2005 **Guildford United** 2 Sandhurst Town 2 Combined Counties League Premier Division; 24 Page Programme: £1.00.

Formerly known as AFC Guildford the renamed Guildford United play at The Spectrum Leisure Centre which is a soulless place as you sit up on a 800 seater capacity terrace looking down on the pitch which has an athletics track surrounding it. The toilets are in the Leisure Centre (a 5 minutes-walk back up the slope) and the only food available were dodgy frankfurters in a stale roll selling for £1.50 at half-time. Best to visit a local pub before the game.

The game was rather disappointing with both sides struggling to string two passes together, although Sandhurst had the better of the first half it was Guildford who went into the break with a single goal advantage (after a long ball fell to the Guildford forward, who seemed a good 5 yards beyond the Sandhurst defence,

there was no flag and it was 1-0). The away side made two changes at half-time and the looked a lot better side for it. They were soon level when new left back N. Yeats hit a 25-yard free kick into the top corner (a le Beckham style) which left the Guildford keeper rooted to the spot. The prolific Pete Mulvaney put the away side 2-1 up but they threw the game away when a deep cross saw the Sandhurst keeper rush from his goal for a ball, he was never going to get leaving the Guildford forward to hook the ball into the unguarded goal. The improved 2nd Half just about pulled the game up to a 3\* rating.

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