

TT No.226: Barry Neighbour - West Country Weekend Travels featuring **Gloucester City** (Southern League Premier) and **Bradford Town** (Western League Division 1).

Having survived the hectic schedule of the Central Midland Hop I decided against paying £23 to see The Bees at Swindon Town and keep the wife happy with a weekend away in Gloucester!

The itinerary involved two games. Firstly, Saturday 22nd April 2006; **Gloucester City** 1 Hitchin Town 0; Southern League Premier Division; Rating: 3*; Attendance: 391; An adequate programme sold for £1.50.

The game was a typical 'End of Season' affair with both sides giving plenty of endeavour but lacking quality in front of goal. The only goal came in the 77th minute when Hitchin failed to clear their lines and the ball was stabbed in at the third attempt to give Gloucester a deserved victory.

After a night in a local hotel we travelled down to Wiltshire for Sunday 23rd April 2006; **Bradford Town** 3 Clyst Rovers 1; Western League Division 1; Attendance: 92; Rating: 4* Colourful Programme included in £4 Admission Price.

Clyst belied their lowly league position and took a deserved 10th minute leads when a low cross was converted. Bradford equalized, somewhat against the run of play 10 minutes later, when slack marking allowed a simple header to beat the 'keeper and make it 1-1. The turning point came 5 minutes later as the Clyst centre-half tussled with the Bradford forward who went down in the area. The Referee awarded a penalty and sent off the Clyst player; a rather harsh decision as the home player seemed to be the initial aggressor. The spot kick was duly converted to give Bradford a fortuitous half-time lead. Bradford made the most of having an extra player and clinched the game with an early second half goal, making it 3-1. Bradford should have increased their lead but were guilty of some poor finishing. Top marks to the visitors who never gave up and continued to look dangerous on the break. This is Bradford's first season in the Western League and the club is well worth a visit; indeed, quite a number of Groundhoppers were in attendance for the game.