

21/08/05 TT No.23: Paul Roth - Bradford Town (Western League)

Bradford Town vs. Almondsbury; Toolstation Western Lge. Div. 1; Res: 1-3; programme £4 with entry.

Travelling down to Bradford-Upon-Avon I had a call from Steve Hurley who informed me he was going to Odd Down's F.A. Cup tie against Portland. We arranged to meet in the Beehive pub some 200 yards past Bradford's ground on the Trowbridge Road. Odd isn't it, one of us lives in Margate, the other in Blackpool and yet we end up going to games only 6 miles apart!!

'Hoppers may have noticed that the club has had a pretty disastrous start to the season at the higher level which is a shame as this is a nice place to visit, not only in football terms. The ground is fully railed off and on the main road side there are a couple of old buildings which are dressing rooms and tea hut respectively. Hard standing goes around most of the pitch and the general ambience is enhanced by two lovely old Georgian houses behind the far goal and a stone wall adjoining the main road made from local stone.

£4 to get in seemed a bit steep but did come with a glossy programme which, to be generous, I will call thin on reading material. Very colourful throughout though!

The game was pretty much one-way traffic apart from the five minutes after half time when the homesters rallied and did actually manage to equalise. It wasn't long before Almondsbury hit their straps again and ran out comfortable 3-1 winners. A season of huge struggle I fear awaits Bradford Town.

For those wishing to travel by public transport, there is a railway station at Bradford-Upon-Avon. There are also lots and lots of buses which pass right by the ground, heading for Bath which might be a better option.

It was nice to see Steve and chat for an hour or so in the pub beer garden and can recommend this scenic Wiltshire town not only for its football club alone.