

**26/08/05 TT No.27: Stephen Harris - Hatfield Town (HSCLP)**

Thursday 25 August 2005; Hatfield Town 4-1 Little Munden; Herts Senior County League; att. c.60, programme issued, admission free.

6.30pm on a Thursday strikes me as a very civilised time at which to play football. And this fixture was particularly welcome, as my chosen midweek game had fallen victim to Wednesday's wet weather.

Hatfield Town have had a chequered and complicated history, recently written up in a hefty book which looks to have been a real labour of love for its author. The present incarnation of the club plays on an unenclosed and rather bumpy, Council-owned pitch to the rear of a modern sports and leisure centre. The pitch is fully railed and plastic matting has been laid along one side and one end to provide a sort of semi-hard standing for spectators. The far side has a line of mature trees which provided some shelter from the wind and showers of yesterday evening. This side also has a solitary park bench for the more-weary spectator or two. Tea etc. should have been available from the leisure centre but, to the consternation of regulars, was not. A reasonable pub lies five minutes-walk away though a 'McMullen's house, the Hopfields in Homestead Road.

Little Munden looked a true village side, with players of all ages, shapes and sizes. They were very much second best in this game, but held a dominant Hatfield side to 0-0 at half-time, largely through good goalkeeping. The second half was actually a closer match and more enjoyable to watch, but Hatfield took their chances and ended up with a comfortable win.

An 8-page match programme had a cover price of £1 but was apparently handed out for free. Unfortunately, only twenty had been printed and they had long run out by the time I arrived at 6.15. Match rating 3\*.

03/20