

22/07/05 TT No.4: Barry Neighbour - Pre-Season Notes Part 1 (9th to 20th July 05)

Pre-Season Games attended: 9/7 - **Staines Town** 0 Brentford 0 - Ironic that I should start the season with a goalless draw after winning the Inaugural FGIF Trophy for most goals last season. 8 Page programme sold for £1.

A full week passed without a game until 16/7 and a train trip down to Folkestone to see **Folkestone Invicta** v Gravesend. Folkestone's renamed Buzzline stadium is a short walk from Folkestone West station and had a thriving club shop available for a good exchange. Gravesend started like an express train and were 3-0 up within 20 minutes; a complete switch of personnel at half-time made the game a bit more competitive in the second half with Invicta scoring a late consolation to make it 1-3. A free single photocopied team sheet was available for the game.

The following day saw me brave the London Tube system to attend **Dagenham & Redbridge** v Brentford. Again, a short walk from Dagenham East station to the ground, now called The Glyn Hopkin Stadium after Sponsorship from a local Garage. A full colour 48-page programme costing £2.50 was issued covering today's game and the previous Friday night's encounter with Hull City. The home side led 1-0 at half time (deservedly) but substituted about 8 players whilst Brentford made one change; this worked in the Bees favour as they eventually ran out 3-1 winners.

Tuesday 19th July saw me make the short trip to Calthorpe Park home of **Fleet Town** who entertained Sandhurst Town. Fleet's clubhouse has undergone a complete refurbishment and looks very impressive to what they had previously. A very even first half was goalless but Fleet made amends in the 2nd half scoring 3 goals without reply. No Programme was issued for the game.

Finally, the following night Wednesday 20th July saw **Brentford** entertain Leyton Orient in a Benefit match for former player Andy Scott. Andy was forced to quit when a potentially fatal heart condition was discovered. Half the funds went to Andy with the rest going to the Charity CRY (Cardiac Arrest in the Young). A 12-page programme costing £2 was issued for the game. After a steady opening the game took off and the Bees won it with two second half goals from former Yeading striker Dudley (DJ) Campbell and youngster Karleigh Osbourne. Sandhurst Town Boys & Girls FC have run an Annual Knockout tournament for the past 7 years in aid of CRY after a local lad collapsed and died whilst playing Tennis. The Lewis Marsh Tournament takes place at the beginning of September.