

11/09/05 TT No.44: Paul Roth - Cirencester Town (SL)

Cirencester Town v Wimborne Town; F.A. Cup 1st Qualifying round; Res: 5-3
Attendance: 147; Programme: £1.50.

Despite having been to Cirencester Town's old ground and that of United's (formerly the "Herd FC") I decided to venture once again into not so deepest Gloucestershire and visit the Corinium Stadium, the fairly newish venue for soccer in the town, for this F.A Cup match.

Approaching from the M4 one has to pass the road that leads up to the ground and double back after circumnavigating a roundabout to go first left along Kingshill Lane where the arena can be found half a mile hence.

My first impressions were that of slight disappointment. The ground has two small seated stands but no terracing and hard standing all the way round. I suppose for Southern League Premier football I expected a bit more -the Corinium Stadium is what I would describe as no more than a very smart Hellenic set up. Am I being too much of a curmudgeon?

Outside is a vast green hangar that hosts indoor activities such as five-a-side football etc, etc. The clubhouse is a vibrant place and hosts all manner of functions and was well patronised. Sheltering in it from the heavy rain, I read the newsy 32-page programme before kick-off. There is a small tea hut towards the far goal selling the usual ephemera.

The game itself was pure delight, played on a wonderous surface that lent itself to passing football with some truly superb goals as the hosts cruised into the next round by 5 goals to 3. If it hadn't been for the super efforts of the visiting goalkeeper and some wayward finishing "Ciren" would have run up a cricket score.

As a footnote everyone has a tale to tell of the "most", "least", "worst", "best", and time tends to fade the memory of what just these events really were like. I can, without doubt, say driving home around the M25 I encountered the "heaviest" rain and "most" water on a motorway I have ever seen!

F.A. Vase next week and a trip on the train I think!!

03/20