

06/10/05 TT No.61: Barry Neighbour - Recent Travels: Bracknell Town (SLW); London Maccabi Lions (FA Sunday Cup) and Holmer Green (SSML)

Tuesday 27th September 2005; Bracknell Town 1 Leighton Town 3; Southern League Western Division; 60 Page Programme £1.50; FGIF Rating 3*.

Bracknell started the brighter and took a deserved lead only for *Non-League Paper* columnist Stuart Hammond to deflect the ball past his own keeper for an equalizer. A second deflection put the visitors 2-1 up early in the second half. Bracknell's confidence went when Leighton added the 3rd. After this game Bracknell announced a cut by one third in their budget which saw the departure of Skipper Hammond and former Reading midfielder Scott Taylor. The decision to place the Robins into the Southern League last season is certainly having a very negative impact at Larges Lane at the moment.

Sunday 2nd October 2005; London Maccabi Lions 5 The Well 3 AET; FA Sunday Cup 1st Round; FGIF Rating 4*; Attendance 19 No Programme Issued.

This game was played at Rowley Lane Sports Ground in Arkley (formerly Laings), who were members of the Hertfordshire County League. This is part of a large sports complex that includes a golf course, tennis, cricket and junior football. It has a fairly large well-appointed clubhouse. The pitch is up on a plateau with a large slope on the far side. This meant that any ball going out rolled down the hill and into the distance. It has a plastic rail all the way around the pitch and a small transparent stand. An interesting part of the ground is in the corner where railway sleepers have been used to hold the earth back indicating that the ground has been dug out and levelled. As for the game itself Hertfordshire-based The Well took a 15th minute lead when the home keeper palmed a mishit cross into his own net. The Well soon added a 2nd and looked like heading for an easy win but the Home side pulled a goal back against the run of play just before half-time. The second half was a transformation as Maccabi pulled back the deficit but could not find a winner before the end. Extra time saw Maccabi continue to dominate and when they made it 3-2 it looked as though they would win. Incredibly, The Well equalized to make it 3-3 at half-time. The fitness of the home side told in the final quarter with 2 more goals to progress 5-3. A good day out and recommended should Maccabi get drawn at home in a future round.

Tuesday 4th October 2005; Holmer Green 1 Biggleswade Town 0; Spartan South Midlands League Trophy Round 2; 48-page Programme £1 (A reduction to the monster 74 Page plus ones of a few years ago but still a great effort); FGIF Match Rating 3.

Holmer Green have a stand on one side and a concrete surround for the remaining three sides. Remarkably the only advertising hording was on the back of the stand with none surrounding the pitch. The trees have grown since my last visit helping to make the ground fully enclosed. The most amazing thing about the game is how

Biggleswade failed to score with at least six clear cut chances in the first half. Holmer Green got back into the game in the second half and won the game with a close-range effort midway through the half to leave Biggleswade feeling they had been well and truly mugged!!

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