

16/10/05 TT No.71: Paul Roth - Debenham Leisure Centre (ECL1)

Debenham L C v March Town United; Eastern Counties Lge. Div. 1; Sat 15th October 2005; Res: 2-2; Programme: 32 pages/£1; Entry: £3.00.

After a three-week break from football, spent hill walking and scuba diving in the warmer climes of Mallorca, I was really ready to get back to Saturday football.

The football season encompasses all the seasons for me and now that late summer has passed and those balmy days are behind us. Autumn is truly here with those mellow, misty, dank mornings and dark night's drawing in.

On a glorious morning I travelled to rural Suffolk to sample all this Autumnal magic and as I sped up the A12 towards Debenham F C in the glorious sunshine the on-board weather station in the car showed a warm 20 degrees outside.

For the thousands of you who log onto this site worldwide you will by now know I am a GBG/Real ale fan and a trip to four pubs had been mapped out en-route. In all my time ground hopping I doubt I have ever visited four such cracking hostelrys in one session. So superb they were I list them here and recommend a meander through the Suffolk lanes to find them: 1 Moon and Mushroom at Swilland; 2 The Chequers at Kettleburgh; 3 The Station at Framlingham and 4 The Victoria at Earl Soham. The last pub at Earl Soham has the brewery and shop 200 yards down the road that sells bottled beers and local produce so I took advantage of this by getting our veg for the Sunday roast and some duck pate for the cat

Oh yes, I almost forgot the Football! Debenham L C (Leisure Centre) were playing March and their well-appointed ground is behind the leisure centre - no surprise there - on the Stonham Aspal road on the edge of the village. £4 got me the prerequisite programme and entry and I quickly found the well-appointed clubhouse that actually has real ale on handpump, although I declined the temptation.

The pitch is fully railed off with hard standing all round (which looks very new) and goal nets in amber and black stripes, the homesters colours.

March dominated the first half to lead 2-0 at the break but a really spirited second half showing by Debenham, despite having their number eleven sent off, saw them fight back to get a deserved 2-2 draw.

A day out at Debenham L C F C and in the glorious county of Suffolk comes highly recommended.

Match rating 4*; the day itself truly 5*.