

19/10/05 TT No.74: Ron Jones - Bedford Sports (MCLP) and Tongham (CCL1)

Bedford Sports v Walthamstow Avenue & Pennant; MCL Prem; 1/10.

Bedford Sports have transformed the Recreation Ground next to Bedford FC's home in Hatton Lane, a ten-minute walk from Hatton Cross into a venue which really belongs to the next level up. The pitch is fully railed off and has brick dug outs on the side furthest from the clubhouse which has been fully refurbished incorporating a tea bar with a serving area on the outside. Programmes at £2 are on sale here, a regular issue with an 8 page insert inside a standard blue cover. There's an area of hard standing in front of the club house while the ground has an enclosed feel as behind one goal is the fence enclosing Bedford's ground and some fenced off land, while allotments lie beyond the other goal. Another match was in progress on a pitch set back far enough from the far side of the main one to avoid any interference. With such a set up, it was a pity that only a handful of spectators saw the whole of an entertaining 3-2 victory for the hosts, these numbers rising considerably once the other match ended.

Tongham v Raynes Park Vale CCL League cup 2nd Round 15/10.

An extremely pleasant setting on a perfect sunny autumn afternoon, easily accessed by Public Transport, with a bus every 15 minutes from Aldershot Station, a 10-minute journey to a stop around 7 minutes-walk from the ground. £2 buys a 12-page programme including admission, these were on sale from a table set up by the entrance. Tongham's ground has already featured here so suffice to say a very enjoyable match with the hosts overcoming their higher division visitors 4-0 in front of an enthusiastic crowd of around 60, a very friendly club and well worth a visit.

03/20