

24/10/05 TT No.84: Barry Neighbour - Crawley Green Sports & Social (SSML2)

What a difference a week makes! Last Sunday I saw my biggest crowd of the season 43647 at Manchester City in the Premiership whilst on Saturday (22/10) I was amongst just 12 spectators to see Crawley Green Sports & Social 2 Pitstone & Ivanhoe 1 AET Spartan South Midlands League Challenge Trophy 2nd Round. Rating 2* 32 Page programme £1.

The Home side had the better of a poor first half wasting the few chances that were created. Crawley took the lead midway through the 2nd half in a disappointing encounter; Pitstone then pushed forward and scored 8 minutes from time to take the game into extra time. The game seemed destined for a penalty shoot-out but in the very last-minute Crawley broke and the visiting keeper hauled down the home forward as he tried to go around him (earning himself a booking for his trouble). As with the rest of the game the spot-kick was poor shooting straight against the keeper's legs but luckily for the home side the ball came straight back to the kicker to fire into the empty net. Surprisingly there was very little celebration as Crawley looked embarrassed to have scored the goal although the bench made up for it 30 seconds later as the final whistle blew.

Crawley Green play at the Crawley Green Recreation ground to the south of Luton; apart from brick dug outs there is little else there, with the pitch roped off for the match. The big surprise is the clubhouse which was very impressive with football memorabilia displayed around the walls. They have a large number of junior teams and the club has over 2000 members, pity a few of them could not get out to support the senior team on Saturday.

04/20