

01/11/05 TT No.95: Ron Jones - Fulbourn Institute (ECL1) and VT FC (Wessex League in the FAV1)

22nd October 2005 - Fulbourn Institute v Tiptree United ECL 1.

Fulbourn is easily reached by bus from Cambridge station, around 30 minutes journey although an around-the-houses route. The ground is about a five-minute walk from the stopping point in the village centre. The playing area in the Recreation Ground is in the far corner, with a roped off pitch and no cover and is enclosed by a claret and blue metal fence running behind one goal and up to the halfway line along one side. A fence and houses border the rest of this side, while trees and the park boundary fence border the other end and far side. An opening at the corner provides the entrance for players (who have a 150-yard walk from the pavilion) and spectators and admission £3.50 (including programme) is taken here, a mobile burger van just outside this entrance provides spectator refreshments, with the pavilion now serving official refreshments.

A crowd of 146 saw Tiptree run out 6-2 winners, a sad note being a 40 minutes delay during the second half while an ambulance attended an injured Tiptree player. Despite the limitations of the current ground, it was good to see the locals supporting the club, and I hope they are able to develop a ground within the village to match their new status.

29th October 2005 - VT FC v Hythe Town FA Vase 1st Round.

A 15-20-minute bus ride from Southampton to a stop right outside the ground, though it would be walkable from Sholing, the ground is accessed from a short driveway off the main road signed VT Sports ground. Along here is a pay box where admission of £5 is payable and programmes at £1 are sold. The small clubhouse, changing rooms and tea bar portacabin are across the car park from here, close to the corner of the main pitch. Behind this goal is a covered shed set back from the pitch and a building housing the Vosper Thorneycroft pigeon club! Hard standing extends behind this goal and along the far side, which is bordered by stables and a field. Along this side are two covered stands with individual seats, holding about 80 and 50 respectively with the home dug out between them, with the visitors the other side. Permanent standing continues along this side and half of the far end. A plastic mesh pathway is laid down on the near touchline side (which borders the cricket square), and the rest of the far end. With two other pitches within the ground it does have a somewhat open feel but the 95 crowd, including 20 or so from Kent created a lively atmosphere as the visitors won a close match 2-1 with a very late extra time penalty.