

TT No.103: *Paul Roth* - Sat 30th December 2006; South Midlands League Div. 2; **Crawley Green** vs. Pitstone and Ivinghoe Res: 3-0; Att: 24; Programme: not today but usually there is one.

The train journey to and away from Luton today was torturous and did nothing to enhance my day out. This, coupled with a soaking during the latter part of the game and during my trip back into town made for NOT my greatest day out so far this season. The lack of a programme, even though I had obtained one from the club's friendly secretary earlier, didn't help matters either.

These things aside, I commend this super little club to all Travellers. A friendlier welcome anywhere you will not receive. Crawley Green FC is situated about 2 miles out of Luton town centre up the, not surprisingly named, Crawley Green Road. This is a long trek out of town but plenty of buses pass that way. The driveway into the club is unpromising but a big car park leads to the quite stupendous club pavilion. At any level of soccer, you will be hard pressed to find a better social club and, with membership of over 2000, this is a vibrant place to be. Cheap beer too!

I was given a guided tour of the fabulous facilities by the club secretary Ian Freeman, one of the nicest fellows you could never wish to meet, and was blown away by the work that has been put in here. Note all the framed programmes (many now valuable in their own right) which adorn the walls, along with the iconic team shirts.

The game of football itself was won comfortably enough by the home side by 3 goals to nil and in truth the visitors only showed their best form when it got so dark that their white shirts were the only obvious colour apparent on the near pitch-black arena during the last 20 minutes. The referee actually blew up a good 5 minutes prematurely as it was so bleak! God bless him!

An enjoyable day inside the club, rather than out, would best sum up my feelings today.

FGIF Rating: 3*; Train day = 9908 wet steps!

06/20