

**TT No.154: Paul Roth** - Mon February 19th 2007; FA Youth Cup 1/4 Final; **Arsenal** vs. Cardiff City; Res: 3-2; Att: 11160; Entry: £3; Programme: one-page team sheet, free.

After Andrew Gallon's superb article (*see TT No:146*) there is little more that I can add about the Gunners new home at Ashburton Grove.

An inspired decision by Arsenal to play the game here tonight and only charge £3 for admission allowed many youngsters and non-members access to the new facility, including myself. It still amazed me though that there could be any agro at an FA Youth Cup tie but a steady stream of idiots was ejected and the many school children seemed to relish this distraction. What is it about soccer and violence?

The stadium is of course magnificent but I cannot leave here without decrying the appalling cost of eating and drinking inside the ground. £4 for a Balti pasty and the suchlike? As you can imagine I had taken my Tiffin earlier elsewhere. A pint and one such comestible will set you back nearly 8 quid!! You can get into Tytherington Rocks' Hardwicke playing fields thrice over for that and with a programme to boot.

Perhaps you can guess which of my two games within 48 hours of each other I preferred attending? What a curmudgeon I am becoming.

FGIF Rating: 5\* (for the stadium alone).

06/20