

**TT No.210: Barry Neighbour - Friday 6th April 2007; Central Midlands League Hop (DAY 1).**

I was picked up at 11am on Thursday for the estimated three-hour journey up to our hotel in Doncaster. At 5.15pm we took a detour to Sheffield for the Speedway (still some 30 odd miles from Doncaster) as the traffic was that bad. Still we made it back to the hotel before closing time for a welcome pint before the real business began on Friday. The coach picked us up at the hotel and we made the short trip to Edlington for our first match.

Friday 6th April 2007 (KO: 10:30am); **YORKSHIRE MAIN 1 THORNE COLLIERY 1**; Att: 347; Rating: 3\*; 20-page programme.

A lively encounter to start the day with visitors Thorne (second to bottom position in the league before play). They had much the better of things but were let down by wasted chances relying on a disputed penalty to take the lead in the 25th minute. From here they began to dominate but could not find a vital second goal. Yorkshire Main took came back into the game and levelled proceedings with just five minutes to go. The Thorne keeper did well to turn a shot onto the crossbar but was helpless as the rebound was headed back past him.

Friday 6th April 2007 (KO: 1:45pm); **ASKERN WELFARE 5 APPLEBY FRODINGHAM 0**; Att: 329; Rating: 4\*; 20-page programme.

Onto Askern for match number two which eventually for me turned out to be the highlight of the weekend. The hosts marked their opponents' cards good and proper as they took a 28 second lead when a cross from the left was headed in. We only had to wait another seven minutes for number two when a header from a right-wing cross was blocked but the rebound was lashed home. Appleby had no answer to the one touch football being played by Askern and it was no surprise to see the third go in as the keeper was chipped. It was four on the half hour when a deep cross from the right was met with a downward header which was directed beyond the keeper. Half-time arrived with no further goals but Askern had struck the woodwork three times to show their dominance. Appleby adopted a damage limitation approach in the second half pushing forward to force several offsides; this worked quite well to frustrate the home side although they did hit the woodwork twice more before sewing the game up from the penalty spot ten minutes from time. The final 5-0 score-line could have been doubled but Askern's performance nevertheless was a credit to the League.

Friday 6th April 2007 (KO: 4.45pm); **HATFIELD MAIN 1 LOUTH UNITED 0**; Att: 376; Rating: 1\*; 20-page programme.

After the last game great things were expected as Hatfield were top of the table against 16th placed Louth. What we got was a huge disappointment with Louth

having the better of play but Hatfield won the game with an excellently taken free Kick in the 68th minute. They held on for the points.

Friday 6th April 2007 (KO: 7.45pm); **HARWORTH COLLIERY INSTITUTE 2 WELBECK WELFARE 1**; Att:270; Rating: 3\*; 20-page programme.

The home side took a 10th minute lead which they held for just over an hour when the Welbeck player reached a through ball beating the home keeper to head home. 12 minutes later Harworth scored the winner from a well-taken turn in the area to fire home. The game will be best remembered for the biting tackles that finished with a Harworth player being shown a red card in injury time for cynically scything down a Welbeck opponent as he headed towards goal.

Not a bad day's entertainment and a short trip to Doncaster for a couple of pints before retiring to bed...Part 2 to follow...

06/20