

TT No.213: Barry Neighbour - Central Midlands League Hop 2007 (DAY 2)

Saturday 7th April 2007 (11.30am); **HOLBROOK MW 0 SOUTHWELL CITY 0**; Rating: 1*; Att: 235; 28-page programme.

The best thing about this game was the fact the bar in the clubhouse opened at 10am! The game was dire with Holbrook hitting the post with a header in the first half - in fact this was the only memorable feature of the game. In fairness though the pitch was bumpy and both teams cancelled each other out.

Saturday 7th April 2007 (2.30pm); **HEANOR TOWN 1 RADCLIFFE OLYMPIC 2**; Rating: 3*; Att: TBA; 32-page programme.

Once again, the teams were well matched and chances were few and far between. The home side edged in front after 30 minutes with a crisp shot from 25 yards. With the Heanor players wilting in the heat, Radcliffe battled to get back into the game and got their just rewards after 75 minutes when a forward beat the home keeper to a through ball to head home. Radcliffe sealed the points 5 minutes from time with a well worked goal after a long ball into the Heanor area was flicked on and the Olympic forward volleyed home the winner.

Saturday 7th April 2007 (6.00pm); **PINXTON 2 BLIDWORTH WELFARE 1**; Rating: 2*; Att: 259; 28-page programme.

A poor first half looked like ending goalless but Pinxton broke the deadlock on the stroke of half-time when a deep cross was met with a looping header to give the home side the lead. The pace of the game picked up in the second half and Pinxton doubled their lead in the 70th minute from the penalty spot after their forward was brought down as he ran into the penalty area. Blidworth got a consolation 5 minutes from time after a cross/shot looped over the keeper which left the crowd split as to whether they had seen a fantastic goal or a sheer fluke!

Overall, another good weekend's Groundhop meeting old friends and getting a number of new grounds in at a relatively cheap price. One criticism for me personally was that the standard of football played was pretty poor this year with Askern standing out head and shoulders above anything else on show. The organisation was superb with congratulations going to Chris Berezai for organising the Hop, Rob Hornby and the Central Midlands League and the clubs who worked hard to make sure that the games all went ahead without a hitch. Finally, a mention to Dave our coach driver for avoiding the muddy grass this year!