

**TT No.223: Paul Roth** - Saturday 14th April 2007; Suffolk and Ipswich League Senior Division; **Grundisburgh** vs. Haughley United; Result: 2-3; Att: 62ish; Programme: 28-pages; Entry: Free.

After my rendezvous with good mate Geoff Seers in the Cherry Tree public house in Woodbridge we were soon heading into deepest Suffolk to visit a couple of GBG listed hostelrys before eventually arriving at the Playing Fields in sleepy Grundisburgh for their vital top-of-the-table clash with Haughley Utd. The two inns we visited on this glorious, hot, spring afternoon were the Three Horseshoes at Charsfield and the magnificent Moon and Mushroom at Swilland where we enjoyed an excellent light luncheon. Both pubs are well worth searching out if the thirsty or hungry 'hopper is ever this way.

The football ground is not the easiest place to espy and is located on the Ipswich Road to the south of the village, just past the garage. Turn into the small drive and car park or as we had to (being a bit late arriving), on the pitch perimeter itself!

There is an intimate clubhouse on the ground which is full of trophies and memorabilia, testament to the success of the club. Here, tea and cakes can be purchased at the interval and stronger liquids at full time. The pitch is roped off and there is no covered accommodation but this did not matter on such a sublime afternoon.

The 28-page programme was given away free of charge and I must say here and now this is one of the best issues I have had all season and it is obviously a labour of love, having a glossy 12 page shell with 16 pages of up-to-date and relevant, newsy material inside. No entry fee was taken either!

With a good crowd gathered the game was under way on time at 2.30pm and within 15 minutes the homesters were a goal up. Seven points ahead in the league and having a game in hand on their opponents, a win today for Grundisburgh would have undoubtedly virtually secured their first title success since 2001. Deservedly level at the break, Haughley pressed hard during the second half but a dreadful blunder by their 'keeper saw Grundisburgh regain their slender advantage. Somehow, via an own goal and a last gasp winner, the men in black and white stole a victory that still keeps the league title wide open, albeit though, I would guess, for only another week or so.

A truly magnificent day on all counts and I can thoroughly recommend Grundisburgh FC and the country idyll that is rural Suffolk to all travellers. Geoff and myself loved it!

FGIF Rating: 5\*.