

TT No.231: *Paul Roth* - Thursday 19th April 2007; Kent County League Div. 1 West; **Westerham** vs. Orpington; Result: 0-1; Attendance: 30ish; Programme: No.

A rarity this evening, my wife has come along with me, on the promise of a bit of retail therapy en-route to Westerham FC. We tick off Sainsburys at Otford, somewhere neither of us has visited before! (only joking).

My third evening match of the week finds me/us at King George Playing fields, the home of Westerham FC for their crucial match against Orpington FC.

The vast playing field is found off Quebec Avenue, at the bottom of Costells Meadow. All looks a bit bleak until the teams are gathered, the goal nets go up and a rope is deployed along the clubhouse side. This gives the place a more football arena-feel - just. A word here about the clubhouse...MAGNIFICENT. Beer on handpump, fresh rolls and a building and its contents that wouldn't be out of place much, much, further up the pyramid.

I was surprised to read on the home team's website that they were founded as long ago as 1888. Good website, by the way, but disappointing there was nothing more to be gleaned about the club when 'clicking' the 'history button' on the relevant page.

Orpington needed to win to take over top spot from Bly Spartans in their chase for the only promotion place and that they did with a well taken goal midway through the first half. Westerham had chances from time to time throughout the rest of the match to equalise but as the game wore on, I got the impression the visitors are a pretty hard 'Nut' to crack. In fact, Orpington had a late goal themselves ruled out. The win puts Orps 2 points clear at the top of Division 1 West, also with a game in hand.

Westerham itself is a very pleasant place in its own right and worthy of a look around with Quebec House, the former home of James Wolfe being the main attraction (a National Trust property). My good lady and I spent a lovely hour in the beer garden of the Grasshopper on The Green sipping the one Westerham Brewery's ale that was on offer, the aptly named Grasshopper Kentish Ale.

All in all, another successful evening out - what's on next week?

FGIF Rating: 3*.