

TT No.233: *Paul Roth* - Saturday 21st April 2007; Kent County League Div. 2 East; **Tenterden Town vs. Platt Utd**; Result: 3-2; Attendance: 41ish; Programme: 8-pages, 50p.

Meeting up with my mate Geoff Seers and his gorgeous girlfriend Claudia at the Leisure Centre next to Tenterden Town FC three hours before kick-off, we were soon heading out onto the Romney Marsh and to some cracking GBG pubs. Nothing new there then!

Actually, our first port of call, the Red Lion at Snargate, deserves a better adjective than 'cracking'. It is, quite simply put, an institution - almost a museum. From there on in things start to go ever so slightly downhill, pub-wise that is, but a magnificent pre-match session was had, unanimously agreed, by one and all.

The 10th edition of the superb Non-League Digest is due out in a couple of weeks-time, and I happen to know that Tenterden Town is to be featured within its esteemed pages, so I apologise now to Editor, Steve King, for stealing his thunder with this report.

The unpromising looking Recreation ground is found at the bottom of 'Recreation ground Road', just off the High Street in the Town Centre. There is a changing pavilion and a set of ancient dugouts in situ and once the blue and white goal nets are added to the goal frames the place takes on the ambience of a football arena. A group of knowledgeable young gentlemen bay their approval for the home side from atop the near dugout. Great stuff and most unexpected.

As the club always issue programmes and what a super effort this is being all in colour and selling for only 50p, I have been trying to get along here nearly all season without any luck as the weather has scuppered my ambitions every time. In fact, I have e-mailed or telephoned the secretary, Mr. Saxby, so often that I feel we should both be on each other's Christmas mailing card list!

Without a win in the County league for a long, long time Platt Utd, from St Mary Platt near Borough Green, are to me, somewhat of an iconic team. Check out their informative website via the KCL unofficial website. I have a soft spot for them.

1 point from 21 games played (that being a draw at Atcost FC) and firmly rooted to the bottom of the table, a chance is here today to at least double that points tally against the 2nd-to-bottom home side.

The game is magnificent and completely belies both team's position not only in the league but in fact the football pyramid itself. Tenterden score first with an amazing strike from just inside the Platt half, only to be countered with a crackerjack half volley just on the stroke of the break. Tenterden regain the lead 20 mins into the restart, only for the visitors to equalise with a stunning strike that tears into the top of the homesters net. We are both (Claudia has retreated into town for some well-earned shopping) overjoyed to think we have witnessed the

doubling of Platt Utd's points tally, only for 'Den' to crash in a last gasp winner to cap off a memorable afternoon and break our romantic hearts.

This is a lovely part of Kent and on such a beautifully, sunny and warm afternoon as today, I cannot imagine anybody who loves association football not adoring this venue.

FGIF Rating: 5*.