

TT No.24: *Paul Roth* - Sat 9th September 2006; Sussex County Lge. Division 3; **Loxwood FC vs Pease Pottage Village**. Res: 3-3; Att: 27ish; 12-page programme £1 including entry.

Having lived in Sussex and been educated there, and of course visited the county on many occasions for both football and cricket, the particular area in which Loxwood Football Club are located was virgin territory to me until yesterday. Situated 10 miles west of Horsham in picturesque rolling countryside, the club play at the Sports Centre in Plaistow (pronounced Plasstow I was told) Road, which is a 1/2 a mile or so out of the village of Loxwood itself. The ground is difficult to spot, but is only 200 yards along Plaistow Road on the left. I missed it first off, but I excuse myself this mistake as there is a cricket field in front of the football ground and that itself is shielded by a dearth of pine trees making it a tricky ground to espy. On page 15 of this week's TFT Peter Wallis gives in depth details how to get to Loxwood on public transport. As you can tell, it ain't easy.

Once there I bought the programme, a photocopied 1- page effort that was quickly read but nonetheless welcome and included everything one needs in such a journal, for £1 which also included entry, from the chap quite literally on the gate. This Gentleman was also the bar steward and ran the line on the day! There is an impressive clubhouse adjoining the cricket ground which sells real ale but was not open until 15 minutes after full time. This gives our man a chance to shower and change. Rolls, tea, coffee and Kit-Kats are all that is on offer in this pavilion before 5-15.

The ground is a real joy to behold, railed off and with wire netting all around (to keep the rabbits out as all their frantic digging is in evidence everywhere) and surrounded on three sides with tall pine trees. Wouldn't Steve Hurley's (canine)Bella love it there!! Apart from the trees there is no cover but on such a glorious day as yesterday none was needed.

The game was a real crackerjack affair with the visitors going in at half time one up. It was during the second half that the game really livened up with Loxwood first equalising and then PPV retaking the lead with a truly stunning goal tucked away by their tall, powerful no.9 Feneton. An inspired substitution by the homesters paid dividends when the aging, grey haired no 15 Barry Hunter was brought on. He scored two in a minute and looked to have won the game for Lox before Sam Kelly popped up to earn the Village a deserved point. A superb game of football, well refereed, in very hot and humid conditions...well done to one and all.

This is, as I said before, a lovely location and would be ideal to bring the family and dogs out for a more than pleasant afternoon in glorious surroundings.

FGIF Rating 5*.

