

**TT No.250: *Paul Roth*** - Monday 7th May 2007; Kent County League Division 1 East; **Ashford Borough** vs. Oakwood; Result: 2-5; Attendance: Between 10 and 36; Programme: No.

Descending the hill from Challock (pronunciation Chollock) toward Ashford on the A251, at this time of year, you encounter one of nature's miracles. The woods here are festooned with millions of Bluebells, making the drive along this section of road a truly up-lifting experience. Every year, for thirty-odd years now, we have come out of our way to witness this phenomenon and each time we're awe-struck by their majesty.

Typical Bank Holiday weather, windy and a tad wet, made for the conditions today at the Sandy Acres Sports Centre, as Ashford Borough took on up and coming and now real promotion challengers Oakwood FC, from Bearsted, near Maidstone. The rural complex is found on the outskirts of Kennington half way along Sandyhurst Lane and were formerly known as Bliby FC. A well-appointed pavilion, today dispensing much welcome hot tea at half time, is the main feature of the arena and the rural setting offsets the lack of other amenities....no cover, the pitch is not roped and there is no programme. A few handily placed trees are welcome additions though!

There was more than meets the eye on this afternoon's match as Ashford had recently beaten Oakwood in the Les Leckie cup final at Lordswood FC (2-1) and the visitors have emerged as genuine promotion hopefuls.

Half a dozen 'Hoppers were in attendance to see Oakwood (in red) comprehensively beat their host by 5 goals to 2 and in truth could and should have won by a bigger margin than they eventually did. 2 up at half time, they strolled into a four-nil lead before the homesters pulled two goals back to spice up an otherwise one-way onslaught. A late penalty gave the 'Oaks' credibility.

A good game, made all the more enjoyable by the 7 goals scored, capped off a super Bank Holiday weekend and, of course, I still had the thrill of those Bluebells to see as I headed back up the hill and homeward.

FGIF Rating: 4\*.

06/20