

TT No.259: *Paul Roth* - Saturday 12th May 2007; Essex Olympian League Division 3; **Barnston** vs. Leytonstone Utd; Result: 1-3; Attendance: about 30; Programme: 16-pages, Free.

Three times this season have I have travelled to Chelmsford for football (although Barnston is 12 miles north of the county town to be accurate) and on each occasion either of my mates Geoff or Steve have been in attendance. Before going to watch football, all three of us congregated at the cathedral beer festival to taste some fine ales; to be honest, we looked unlikely candidates sitting there in the formal cathedral marquee, as not one of us has that ecclesiastical look! Friar Tuck, eh?

As Steve went off to the Broomfield v Writtle match (result), Geoff and I took Bus no.33 from the bus station to the tiny village south of Dunmow and we walked along High Easter Road for about 400 yards to the truly amazing little football ground. Neatly railed off, excellent clubhouse and a 16-page programme made for a most unexpected find here...why aren't the club higher up the pyramid with facilities like this? Location probably has a lot to do with it, I suspect. It's very rural out here, you know.

As it was tipping it down with rain outside, we watched the game for a while from the dry of the clubhouse but later as conditions improved, we were able to slowly amble around the perimeter and take in differing aspects of this pretty football ground.

At one stage it looked as though we were going to be in for one of those frustrating nil-nillers - before promotion-chasing Leytonstone won an even game with three second-half goals. Luckless Barnston did manage to pull one back with a late spot kick.

The same bus and driver[!] took us back to the city passing Broomfield FC on the way. After a quick beer with friends re-united, I was soon heading home and running the gambit of engineering works laid before me by my British Railways friends - that's another story. Or should I call it a saga?

FGIF Rating: 5*.

06/20