

TT No.267: Paul Roth - Saturday 19th May 2007; Essex Olympian League Division 3; **Hutton FC** vs. Leytonstone United; Result: 3-1; Attendance: 40 or so; Programme: 8-pages, free; Admission: Free.

Planning to go elsewhere today, it wasn't until I saw a programme was being issued for this fixture (on TFT website noticeboard), that I plumped to head for rural Essex, again. And by the time 90 minutes had elapsed, I was jolly glad I had chosen to come, as it was a highly entertaining game and an exceptionally good set up here.

Hutton FC, founded in 1928, can be found two miles east of Brentwood off the A129 and their rural ground, shared with cricket, is located to the south of the village in Hall Green Lane. Cricket was actually being played on adjacent pitches today, so for those of us who like both the Winter and Summer games, this was the ideal venue.

The football ground is tucked away in the corner of the well-kept field and the odd-looking pavilion encapsulates changing facilities and an atmospheric clubhouse cum bar. The programme was found here and it was help yourself time to the free 8-page offering which has apparently been a regular issue all season. Not a bad effort either, I should add. Rolls and tea were available here at half time.

The ground is fully roped all the way round.....not quite the immaculate roping one gets at Old Chelmsfordians I must add, but with the pavilion and the rural backdrop the arena has a rustic charm about it.

For Leytonstone United this was another important game, as they find themselves amazingly on the same number of points and goal difference as Met Police Chigwell. A must win game for them, then. Duly they went on to deservedly lose by three goals to one to a much better, on the day that is, home side who played with lots of invention and created numerous chances. In truth, some of Hutton's approach play belied their position in the Third Division of this league.

All was not lost though as the Policemen were busy losing more heavily on their travels, therefore elevating the East Londoners into 2nd place by virtue of losing by less goals! Things now rest on M&B's result on Tuesday evening, against Hutton coincidentally, as the Dagenham based club are three points adrift of the second promotion spot. With just this final game to play they have a much superior GD to Leytonstone.

During the game it was nice to chat to Vince (of '*Groundtastic*' magazine fame) whom I've seen a few times on my travels recently but never got round to talking to before.

Just before the end the Red Arrows flew overhead, en-route to Wembley for the FA Cup Final, adding an extra splash of colour and noise to a most enjoyable afternoon.

For more about this friendly club take a look at the informative Hutton FC website.

FGIF Rating: 4*.

06/20