

TT No.3: Barry Neighbour - Tuesday 25th July 2006 - **Basingstoke Town 0 Brentford 1**; Saturday 29th July 2006 - **Crawley Town 0 Brentford 0** and Monday 31st July 2006 - **Harrow Borough 0 Brentford 3** (all PSF's).

I conclude my reports on Brentford's Pre-Season games starting with: Tuesday 25th July 2006; **Basingstoke Town 0 Brentford 1**; single-sided team sheet (free); Rating 2*.

Basingstoke's ground is dominated by a High Stand backing onto the busy A30. There is cover right along the far side and behind the far goal to make it more than adequate for the level the club play at. The game was fairly scrappy from the start and deteriorated in the second half amid a spate of substitutions from both sides. The only goal came in the 55th minute when the Basingstoke defender tipped over Paul Brooker's goal-bound shot. Bees skipper Kevin O`Connor scored from the spot to give the Bees an uninspiring win.

Saturday 29th July 2006; **Crawley Town 0 Brentford 0**; Match Rating 1*; glossy programme sold for £2 (covering games v Brighton and Brentford) but did not have any team line-ups?

Bees fans were heard to say after the Basingstoke game that it could not get worse - 'Oh yes it could!'. This was a no score bore draw with little action from either side from the start. Both teams have experienced a major upheaval in the summer and both look like they face a long season of struggle. On the plus side this was the fifth consecutive game where I had seen Brentford keep a clean sheet. The question still remained, where were the goals going to come from?

Monday 31st July 2006; **Harrow Borough 0 Brentford 3**; Match Rating:3* 4-page Programme 50p.

Brentford played a team of juniors and trialists in this game and it was certainly a lot livelier than the first team have been producing in other previous Pre-season games. In particular centre-forward Charlie Ide proved to be a thorn in Harrow's side from the kick-off. It was the diminutive little striker who opened the scoring in the second half with a well taken shot under the keeper. One of the trialists bundled the ball over the line for Brentford's second and the third came from the spot after the Bees forward was upended in the area. As the kick-off had been put back it meant that after the game it took two and a half hours for the team to get from Brentford to Harrow due to the busy London traffic! The League season starts on Saturday with a home game against Blackpool. I don't feel that the bookies will be offering good odds for a 0-0!!