

TT No.30: *Paul Roth* - Saturday 23rd September 2006; FA Vase 2nd qualifying round; **Radstock Town** vs. Bodmin Town; Res: 0-4; Att: 67; Entry: £5; 28-page programme: £1.

Arriving in Bath on the stroke of midday, there was lots of time for me to take a leisurely stroll around the lovely city and mix with tourists, locals and Bath and Worcester Rugby supporters alike - we all soaked up the gorgeous warm autumnal sunshine, before I headed off to Radstock on one of the many buses which depart from the bus depot adjoining the railway station. It is actually a real scenic journey.

A pint in the Radstock Hotel, the only pub I could find in Radstock which luckily for me sold the full range of Hidden Brewery ales and it was time to ascend the hill which leads out of town towards Frome (A362). I hadn't realised that the area was synonymous with mining and if I had had more time would have ventured into the mining museum which is slap bang in the middle of town, next to the pit wheel which proudly stands next to the museum. Turn right after about 300 yards into Frome Old Road and follow round to "Southfields" where the club's' ground can be found.

This is a smashing venue and just the sort of place us 'hoppers love. I paid £5 to gain entry and £1 for the rather heavily advert-laden programme and walked around the ground to get a feel of the place. A small seated stand adorns the far side which is next to the surprisingly well-appointed and comfortable clubhouse that houses a skittle alley and also sells Real Ale. Hot pasties and sausage rolls can be purchased from the bar as well. Outside is a canteen selling the usual footballing tucker. The whole pitch is enclosed with red, black and white railings. At the far end two metal swing gates allow free entry onto the ground - a slightly odd arrangement this.

After losing 1-6 at home to Evesham last week, the Miners were hoping for a better display but a brace of goals in each half scuppered any dreams of a Vase run this term as the Cornishmen deservedly cruised into the next round.

During the second half I was joined by Tony Williams and we enjoyed a friendly chat. He, like me, had never visited "Southfields" before and both concurred how lovely the place is.

After the game I took a bus back into Bath, passing through and seeing a game in progress at the quaint ground of Peasedown Athletic (fully railed off with sizeable stand ... don't know if that was a cup game in extra time or just a late kick off ?) before getting the 18.15 train back to Paddington.

In summary, a quite magnificent, rural and scenic ground is "Southfields" and I am certain all who venture there will be captivated by its beauty.

FGIF rating 5*

Train day = 12666 steps.

06/20