

TT No.52: *Barry Neighbour* - Saturday 28th October 2006; **Whitehawk** 1 Wick 2
Sussex County League Division 1; Att: 75; FGIF Rating 3*; 24-page programme 50p.

A day trip to Brighton saw me take in Sussex County League Leaders Whitehawk. Top of the table and unbeaten in eleven games this season, the hosts were upset by a lowly (17th place) Wick side who belied their league position with a tremendous display to take a deserved three points.

After an even start, Whitehawk started to get on top but Wick held firm and took the lead ten minutes before half time when they capitalised on a mistake in the Whitehawk defence for Tom Manton to score with a well taken shot low in the corner. Whitehawk looked for an equalizer in the second half but could not find a way past the well drilled Wick defence. Then in the 65th minute the visitors hit the leaders with a classic counter attack. Tom Manton picked the ball up on the edge of his own penalty area and ran almost the entire length of the pitch before cutting inside a desperate Whitehawk defender and slipped the ball under the outrushing keeper for a magnificent finish. Whitehawk were stunned and not even a disputed penalty (after the linesman flagged for a shirt pull) was enough to save the game as Wick ran out worthy 2-1 victors.

Whitehawk's New Brighton Park ground is open on three sides but has a large covered terrace some 20 yards away from the pitch. There are plans displayed on the wall in the clubhouse to erect a 100-seater stand and to extend the clubhouse. If going to Brighton by train you get an all-day bus ticket for just £3 from the travel shop by the station. The services were superb and represent great value should you want to see one any one of the Brighton teams play.