

**TT No.6: Rod Grubb** - Sat 6 August 2006; **Shenstone Pathfinder** (WMRL Div. 2) v Nuneaton Griff (MCFLP) 1-1 (PSF).

On Saturday 6th August I visited the ground of Shenstone Pathfinder (West Midlands 2) for the pre-season visit of Midland Combination Premier Division side Nuneaton Griff. The pitch is actually part of the Village Recreation Ground and is easily found on the Birmingham Road on one side of the village.

Facilities are a bit sparse with no cover and just a rail and some hardstanding on the top side of the pitch; the other side is part of the cricket pitch and boasts of ropes which were quickly removed after the game. A very smart Social Club building consists of the dressing rooms and two rooms attached to a central bar.

The pitch is quite bumpy with indeterminable bounce but both teams combined to give an entertaining display in the muggy conditions with the home side making up the difference in class with a dogged display, especially at the back. There were two goals just before the break with Richard Kay nodding in for Griff as he got past a hesitant defender and Rob Burnside heading the equalizer at the far post from a fine cross from the right. The second half saw the visitors go for the proverbial jugular but some stout defending allied to some glaring misses kept the final score down to 1-1 although Pathfinder also had their moments on the break.

Shenstone are a very friendly club who will only progress if they can turn round the pitch and get the cricketers to move, but they do have a better option with a second pitch if they can persuade the Farmer who owns it to give them a longer lease than the current one year roll-on.

A regular programme will be produced for all home games and they also have badges, but although I exchanged one for a Griff one, I was told that they are normally given to the players so am not sure if they are on sale to collectors in general. We afterwards ticked off the GBG-listed Fox and Hounds in the centre of the village and there are three more within short walking distance so a superb day out in a lovely setting.

FGIF Rating - 3\*.

06/20