

TT No.87: *Stuart Pykett* - Saturday 9th December 2006; **Dartford** v Dover; Ryman League Division 1 South; Result: 1-1; Att: xxx; Programme: £1.50; Admission: £9.

Dartford's new ground, Princes Park, is easy to find (by car) being a mile or so off Junction 1B of the M25 south of the Dartford Crossing, heading towards Dartford town centre. The ground is one of the better of the 'new' grounds in design, covered on all sides. Unusually there appears to be grass growing on top of the stand roofs; this looks a deliberate idea but it could be interesting when they have to get the lawn mowers up there to trim the weeds!!

Seriously though it is a good set up and it is good to see a club back in its own town. I would arrive early if going by car. There is a moderately sized 'free' car park outside the ground which fills up quickly but where you would park when

this is full who knows? I would perhaps advise travellers to get a bite to eat and a drink elsewhere before the game, as the 'home tea bar' didn't open 'till half time, ridiculous for a club at this level. I would suspect this was a 'one

off' due to staff shortages but the fact that the 'Away tea bar' opened at about 2pm was a bit daft!! There is a bar to which admission can be gained after entrance to the ground. The Dover supporters were 'segregated' for this match at the car park end of the ground. Admission was a 'pricey' £9.00 but the view from the seats was a bit too low for me. The programme was £1.50, a decent effort, glossy shell and photocopied information inside it. Nothing special but adequate. The issue for the first game versus Horsham YMCA at £2.00, all glossy with lots of interesting historical info, is excellent. Nearly forgot, the game, it was rubbish. How Dartford are second in Ryman South beats me? Dover were a fraction better but most of the stuff I've watched in this league is poor, so there you go! Dartford never looked like scoring until the 90th minute that is! Score: 1-1. Overall, well worth a visit!