

TT No. 113: Paul Roth - Saturday 20th December 2008; **Lemsford** vs. Knebworth; Herts Senior League Prem Division; Res: 6-1; Att: 12; Programme & Entry: 12 pages, 50p including admission; Weather: Breezy, mild and dry.

In Martin's recent article in the 'Ramblings' section of the website, he describes the "laying to rest of the Lemsford ghost" after his successful visit there a few weeks ago for a Herts. Sen. League match versus Bovingdon FC.

Well, maybe not quite mate.

I made my decision to follow in my friends' footsteps on Wednesday of this week, and on Thursday evening my beloved and I went ice skating at the specially constructed 'Christmas Wonderland' skating rink in Broadstairs.

Skating looks a pretty straightforward art to me, but to my chagrin soon discovered that ice is horribly slippery stuff.

I reckon I lasted thirty seconds, no more, upright, before taking a nasty tumble which necessitated two hours in A&E. My right ankle was very badly twisted and my coccyx bruised; the pain was excruciating. Even more hurtful was by betrothed's howls of laughter at my unfortunate predicament. She described my attempt at a double toe loop and triple axel as one of the funniest things she had ever seen! Torvill and Dean, we ain't!

The upshot of this disaster is that the injury threatened to jeopardise my football this weekend. Pain killers and ice packs reduced the swelling somewhat and with the aid of a walking stick to press down the accelerator of my Ford Focus (a sort of Heath Robinson cruise control), when the pain became too great, the Welwyn Playing Fields, home of Lemsford FC, was somehow achieved. A stop at the GBG listed White Horse in the homely town of Welwyn itself, was also somehow managed.

Martin succinctly describes the ground here and there is nothing more I can add to his superb, accurate article. The only disappointment is that the pitch is set above the car park itself, requiring your despondent correspondent to hobble to the tea bar to purchase the excellent 12-page programme!

Those that follow the fortunes of the Herts. Sen. League will know that bottom club Bedmond Sports and Social FC are the whipping boys this term, losing nearly every game they play by a hefty margin. Surprisingly though, they have actually won one match, unsurprisingly against near neighbours and today's visitors Knebworth, who have yet to record a single league victory themselves.

After ten minutes of play it was patently obvious to see why that is the case, as the men in amber and black piled on early pressure and were by then two goals to the good. By tea time it was 4-0 and should have been a lot more. I'll give credit where credit's due though, as Knebworth played better in the second period and

actually pulled a goal back; but as time went by Lemsford found their straps once more and added a further two goals to run out comfortable winners by 6 goals to one.

Limping off into the sunset, I journeyed painfully back down the A1, around the M25 and down the M2 to be home in time for the final of SCD, followed afterwards by watching the video we had recorded of the Celebrity Mr. and Mrs. show on ITV. What a fabulous way to start the Christmas week. Let it never be said, we know how to live down here in Thanet!

Finally, I would like to wish all of you reading this a very happy Christmas and especially to Martin, Fran and family, my great friends Alan, Bob and Hilary, Christmassing in El Salvador, Hugo and Rachel in Nigeria and to my new-found following in Uzbekistan.

"God Bless you all".

FGIF Star Rating: A painful (!!) 5*.

06/20