

TT No.198: Bob Davies - Saturday 28th March 2009; **Kelvedon Hatch** (0) 1 May & Baker Club (2) 4; Essex Olympian League Premier Division; Admission: N/A; Prog: £1, 20pp (very good); Tea 50p; Attendance: 35 (h/c).

Kelvedon Hatch is situated on the A128 and lies about 4 miles north of Romford (roughly between Ongar and Brentwood). It has become well known in recent times for being the home for the “secret” nuclear bunker which is now open to the public and so is not so “secret” anymore!

To find the ground turn left off the A128 into School Lane. Just after passing the Primary school on the left look for a turning on the right for the village hall.

There is small car park that allows you to park pitch side. The pitch itself is roped off and separates the village hall from a small playground. There are no floodlights and no cover. To the right of the village hall are two tennis courts and further along is the dressing room complex that also has a kitchen from where refreshments are sold at half time.

Kelvedon had kept an unbeaten league record up until February the 28th but a recent dip in form had seen them lose three out their last four matches. They still retained the leadership of the division with 48 points from 21 games but had allowed Frenford Senior to get level on points (having played two games more than the Hatch). The visitors, May and Baker Club, occupied fifth place with 31 points from 20 games and were on a five-match winning streak.

The match was an entertaining spectacle and it could easily have been 3-3 at half time but the woodwork and some good saves from the visitor's 'keeper meant the home side went in goalless while the visitors took their chances well and went in with a 2-0 ahead. Despite pulling a goal back early doors in the second half it was the visitors that struck twice more as the Hatch chased the game and ended up 4-1 winners to make it six wins on the bounce.

For Kelvedon they did not only lose the game but lost the League leadership as well (with Frenford Senior winning a home to Canning Town to go three points clear). They do still have two games in hand but will have pick up their game to challenge for the title in the remaining weeks of the campaign.