

TT No.201: Bob Davies - Sat 4th April 2009; **Springfield 1** Runwell Hospital 0; Essex Olympian League Division 2; Admission: free; Programme: 36 pp, excellent, free; Tea and Kit-Kat: 90p; Attendance; 25 est.

Another visit into Essex to the excellent venue of Springfield FC.

A quick run up the A10, A120 and down into Chelmsford along the A130 (I'm not too sure if I was on this road but it headed in the general direction anyway!). I found the Springfield area to the East of the city centre off the A138. The football complex was at full stretch with four matches taking place at the venue in the afternoon and we parked up on the overflow car park.

Heading for the complex to take some photos were greeted by a Springfield official who enquired if we wanted a programme. Music to my ears, as he produced two programmes for myself and grandson and even better that they were free! This was an excellent 36-page production with stats, match reports and a good review of the all Springfield teams and was easily the best I've seen at this level for a long time.

The first team play on the first pitch adjacent to the club house other matches were taking place on two pitches further on separated from the main pitch by trees and hedges. The main pitch which has a pronounced slope, was roped off, there were no dug outs or cover so we were glad of a warm spring like afternoon. There was also a tea bar open at the complex that was well stocked with sweets, crisps and also cooked burgers and bacon rolls all at very reasonable prices.

Today's match was taking place between two "in form" sides from opposite ends of the table. Runwell Hospital who must still have title aspirations were in fifth place with a current run of six undefeated games. Springfield, however, occupied a much lower position of 3rd from bottom but are showing much improved form of late with five undefeated games. The game was a tense affair with the home side denting Runwell's title hopes scoring the only goal of the match during the first half. The home goal keeper played an inspirational game dominating his area and pulling off a couple of very good saves. As the game went on Runwell became more and more anxious to take something from the game but Springfield held firm and took all three points with a 1-0 win.

We then ventured back into Hertfordshire for the Speedway at Rye House and a cracking meeting with Kings Lynn.