

TT No.30: Paul Roth - Saturday 6th September 2008; Middlesex County League Prem Division; **KODAK (HARROW) FC vs. NEWHAM BOROUGH (SECP)**; Res: 1-1; Att: 20; Programme: 8 Pages; Entry: Free.

How did the ancient Egyptians build the great pyramids on the plateau at Giza? Is there life on Mars? What is the significance of the Nazca lines? Where's Lord Lucan? Will I ever be able to explain the offside rule to my wife?

Imponderable mysteries each and every one, and into that unfathomable mix, let me add another yet-to-be solved conundrum, **WHAT HAS BECOME OF AND WHERE ARE BRAZILIAN FC?** Without those lovable doyens of the beautiful game the Middlesex County League and my football life have now become bereft, meaningless, devoid, sans. I've been rendered but a meagre shell, a veritable husk!

Well, perhaps not quite. The trouble with this league is that when you rock up to one of their venues, you're never quite sure what you're going to get. Luckily, Kodak (Harrow) FC's Zoom Leisure complex is one of the better facilities. Formed as long ago as 1935, for the workers at the Kodak factory in nearby Wealdstone (these buildings form an industrial backdrop to proceedings, viewed from the far end), the club today finds itself catapulted into the upper echelons of the MCL, along with a few other unlikely candidates.

Situated on Harrow View, a big roadside sign leads the visitor into the large car park and one then passes through the reception area and on into the modern bar. The pitch, which is bordered by an attractive row of weeping willow trees, set on a bank, is 100 yards beyond and is roped on the nearside with a thick, tall hedge separating the car park from the playing area. The club also boasts two function halls, indoor badminton and volleyball courts plus outdoor areas for 5-a-side football, volleyball and netball. Ebullient club secretary, Peter Croffey, had reserved me two programmes, which are basic fare but nonetheless most welcome.

I'm joined this afternoon by my Bohemian friend, Geoffrey Seers, and this naturally means we have sought out a couple of watering holes prior to kick-off. In fact, two Wetherspoons and a Young's pub are ticked off from the NW London section of the newly-arrived 2009 GBG, and these hostelries cater as our liquid luncheon.

In steadily falling rain that just got harder and harder as the match went on (thank the lord for those weeping willow trees); I have to say at this juncture how good the playing surface is and the heavy rains of Friday never had this fixture in any doubt, the two teams offered up a rather cautious game of football. Chances were few and far between and the visitor's late equaliser gives a fair reflection of the state of play today.

Groundhoppers will get a chance to visit Zoom Leisure in October, when Kodak (Harrow) FC host an early kick-off in one of a number of such matches scheduled

throughout the season by the MCL, to promote their competition. I think and hope you'll be favourably impressed by what you discover here.

And finally, if BRAZILIAN FC are gone forever, isn't there somewhere out there, in this great metropolis of ours, a bunch of ex-pats who could muster themselves into a half decent football team and apply for and get themselves elected into the MCL...it can't be that difficult, can it? So next year how about ARGENTINEAN FC? or PERUVIAN FC (I'm back to those Nazca Lines again)? Maybe perhaps BOLIVIAN FC? or at a push, even SURINAMIAN FC?

FGIF Star Rating: 3*.

06/20