

TT No.37: Bob Davies - Weds 9th September 2008; **Boreham Wood** v Maidstone Utd; Ryman League Prem Division; Result: 0-1; Attendance: 137; Admission: £9; Programme: 32pp, £2.

I thought I'd get my annual visit to Boreham Wood ticked off with fourth placed Maidstone United visiting.

The ground at Boreham Wood is situated at Meadow Park in Broughinge Road. I use the A1 turn and follow the road (A5135) in towards the town centre, over a small double roundabout and past the swimming pool complex/hotel on the right. When you reach the large roundabout, take the second exit (Brook Road) and go past the public car park on the right and take the next turning right into Broughinge Road. Parking can be a problem in the club car park as it does get very busy but there is always street parking available.

Admission is £9 whether you sit in the stand or stand on the terrace. I've always liked this ground but the atmosphere has been somewhat lacking on most of my visits. A covered shallow terrace runs along the full pitch opposite the main stand and there is a more than adequate uncovered terrace behind both goals. A refreshment hut is behind the far goal selling hot food and drinks. There is also a refreshment hatch just round the corner from the turnstile and nearer to the main stand that was doing a brisk trade during the half time interval.

The new club shop is situated at the turnstile end terracing selling badges, shirts books and programmes this was manned on the night by Del Ward in the absence of usual custodian Jeff Weston. A topic of conversation with Del was the lack of clubs swapping programmes on their visits and perhaps people are not collecting as much as they used to. Worth popping in if you visit and bring some of your club's current seasons programmes if you want to exchange them, you'll be very well received!

I chose to sit in the main stand for this game but the continual bad language, abuse and whining towards the officials from the Boreham Wood bench was particularly irritating and would not encourage anybody to bring the family along to games!

On taking my seat I had a read of the programme that at £2 seems to be norm for this level of football. It had 32 pages (13 pages of adverts) and contained all the usual items in a neat and colourful presentation but at £2 is still overpriced.

On to the game, Maidstone looked a good side in the first half dominating large periods of the play and taking a 29th minute lead through Lloyd Blackman who stabbed home from a free kick at the near post. The Wood had earlier struck the crossbar with an Elliott Buckman header but other than that offered little threat to the visitors until the latter stages of the half. The second half proved a disappointment as Maidstone consolidated their narrow lead and both sides

spluttered along with a series of misplaced passes. The game did burst into life occasionally but not enough to retain the interest. Boreham Wood did put on a better performance than in the first half and to be honest deserved a share of the points in a game that overall. nobody deserved to win.

Match Rating: 2*.

06/20