

TT No. 102: Bob Davies - Sat 21st November 2009; **Fleet Town** v Chatham Town; Ryman League Division 1 South; Result: 4-3; Attendance: 126; Admission: £8 (grandson £1); Programme £1.50. Tea Bar: tea/coffee/choc, £1.

For our visit to Fleet Town on Sat we followed the directions from the website.

"Leave the M3 at Junction 4a, and follow signs to Fleet. Head along the A3013, Fleet Road. Carry on along the street passing the main shopping street, through several pedestrian crossings (and speed humps!) for about 1 mile. When you get to the Oatsheaf Pub crossroads head straight across. Ground is 300 yards down the hill on the right".

As we got into the area early, we picked two choices for a game. With the weather decidedly iffy I plumped for Fleet Town instead of a visit to Farnborough North End. We did however take a visit to the Wessex League Division 1 side before heading off for the main event.

What a good choice we made as the rain that began at Farnborough North End really took control and we were grateful for the cover in the Fleet Town stand! The ground also has some standing cover at both ends and a lot of people also stand under the cover by the refreshment hut and club shop. Unfortunately, the club shop appeared to be closed on our visit so I cannot comment on the contents therein. I had parked in the main car park but be warned, this quickly fills up and depending where you've parked you could find yourself blocked in, luckily, I wasn't as we left after the game.

The game itself was probably the best we have seen this season despite the inclement weather. Fleet took the lead after only 2 minutes when leading scorer Mark Anderson added to his season tally of 17. An injury-hit Chatham side equalised on 19 minutes with the impressive Stefan Gaisie keeping his nerve as he went one-on-one with the home keeper. Within four minutes the home side regained the lead with the troublesome Darren Wheeler firing home low from the left. Plenty of chances for both sides as a result of some over generous defensive marking giving the forwards a lot of time and space but thanks to both keepers no more goals until the 44th minute. A free kick on the edge of the Fleet Town penalty area was struck home 'Beckham' style for Gaisie's second of the game.

After coming back from a goal down twice the visitors took the lead just before the hour when Jim Lyons shot through a crowd of players in the Fleet box. Both defences had tightened up in the second half but Chatham went down to ten with David Hall receiving his second yellow of the game on 75mins. The ten men defended valiantly but could not keep out Darren Wheeler's shot from the edge of the box on 90 minutes. All square but this match had a sting in the tail for Chatham. On 90 minutes (+4) Fleet were awarded a penalty which goalkeeper Ruddy did well to save from Darren Wheeler, denying him a hat-trick. Fleet, however, weren't to be denied and produced a winner from Mark Anderson in

goalmouth scramble following sustained pressure on the Chatham goal after the penalty save. What a game!

After the match we battled our way through the deluge to see the ice hockey at Basingstoke and yet another defeat for the Phantoms, keeping them near the foot of the table.

Club website: <https://fleettownfc.co.uk/>

Match Rating: 5*.

06/20