

**TT No. 18: Bob Davies** - Saturday 29 August 2009; **Soham Town Rangers** 0, **St Ives** 0; F.A. Cup Preliminary Round; Admission £7, (£4 for grandson); Programme: £1.50; Attendance: 156.

With the bank holiday traffic having little effect on our journey for the second game in our F.A. Cup weekend, the trip to Soham Town v St Ives Town was made in good time.

The ground can be found by using the directions on the Zamaretto League website as follows. (Mind the horses as you are using the road across the common!).

“Take the turning off the A14 for Soham/Ely. Join the A142 following signs for Ely/Soham. On approaching Soham at the Q8 petrol station, continue down the Soham bypass for approximately 1.5 miles. Turn left after the Bypass Motel, continue bearing left across the Common into Bushel Lane. At the end of the road turn right into Hall Street. Julius Martin Lane is second left”.

We chose not to use the club park as we wanted a swift getaway after the game and so parked outside the clubhouse in the street without a problem.

The ground looked quite smart with both ends having covered standing with the stand set back slightly from the clubhouse along the dressing room side. Either side of the stand had covered accommodation. A wall is being erected that gives the pitch a more enclosed look. The side opposite the main complex is open and has a marked-out training pitch between the pitch wall and exterior fencing (plenty of room for development here if required).

This will be Soham Town Rangers' second season in the newly named Zamaretto League and so admission and programme charges were now the average to the rest of the League.

The visitors St Ives Town are members of the United Counties League Premier Division and had claimed this tie with a 6-1 home win over Daventry United in the previous round.

My F.A. Cup “jinx” was to strike again with both teams being unable to find the net as per the Saturday match I chose to watch in the last round. Soham did however look the more likely to break the stalemate. St Ives did play some good football at times but threatened the home sides less frequently than there build up promised.

It does look like I will be going to the replay on Tuesday and hoping that either side will score the goals required within the 90 minutes as I don't really fancy extra time or even penalties on a work night.

FGIF Match Rating: 2\* - So-So.

