

TT No.26: *Justin Holmes* - Sat 5th September 2009; **Taunton Town** v Yate T; Zamaretto League Division 1 South and West; Score: 0-1; Attendance: 225; Admission: £7; Programme: 40 pages, £1.50; Match rating: 2.

Only one word can describe this game...dismal. Wordsworth Drive is quite an unremarkable ground, although with perfectly adequate facilities for this level and covered seating and terraces on all four sides of the ground. The ground is situated about a half hour walk eastwards of the town centre. The programme is quite impressive, with a sturdy cover, and with up to date, comprehensive information about the home and away sides and news from the league.

Both sides had made solid starts to the season with a couple of wins out of 4 games each and both progressing in the FA Cup the previous week. As this game was relatively a local derby, a competitive game was expected. However, Taunton were truly dreadful today, hardly able to string passes together and continually putting the ball out of play. Yate always looked the better side without themselves looking at all impressive.

At half time, the thoughts were that if ever there was a banker for a goalless draw, this would be it. However, four minutes into the second half, Yate did manage to score through Edd Vahid from close range following a corner. Midway through the second half, Taunton were reduced to ten men, which said everything about the poor game the officials were having, giving out a second yellow card for an innocuous foul, as did the 6 other yellow cards despite their hardly being a serious foul throughout, also as did the referee missing a blatant back-pass which the goalkeeper picked up yet play was allowed to continue. As Taunton didn't look a threat with 11 men, there was little prospect of this improving, and so it proved, not having a shot on goal until the last 5 minutes, when they did have a couple of half chances.

So, a deserved win for Yate, although a goalless draw would probably have been a fairer reflection on a poor game. A nice touch was a club official walking around the ground handing out mints to all spectators shortly after the game started.