

TT No.56: *Justin Holmes* - Sat 17th October 2009; **Coney Hall** v Canterbury City; Kent County League Premier Division; Venue: Tiepigs La, Coney Hall (nr Bromley); Score 1-2; Admission: £2.00 (including programme); Att: 50(ish); Match Rating: 2.

Tiepigs Lane, located close to Bromley in South London, is a decent ground by Kent County League standards - which are generally very low, it has to be said. There's a small covered stand (standing room only), hardstanding on three sides of the pitch, and a welcoming clubhouse and tea bar. Considering the location being firmly in suburbia, this is quite an attractive ground, very roomy and mostly surrounded by trees.

Coney Hall do produce a programme which is included with the £2 admission and is a 16-page effort full of stats from the league, a couple of match reports and a welcome message from the manager. In short, it's an excellent guide for those who are not very up to date with the Kent County League, and you can't ask for much more than that. It must also be said that any programme at this level is always very welcome and much appreciated. Tiepigs Lane is a five-minute walk from Hayes train station, although I chose to travel via Orpington station and catch a bus for the 15-minute journey to the ground.

This game pitched two relative newcomers to the Kent County League. Coney Hall have only been playing in the Kent County League since 2007, when they transferred from the Combined Counties League. Canterbury City have only been in existence for the same period of time, reforming in 2007 after six long years in the wilderness after the previous club folded, and after progressing easily through the lower Kent County Leagues as champions in their first two seasons, are finding life altogether tougher this season in the Premier Division, before this game finding themselves down in tenth place out of 16 after eight games, but with Coney Hall only one place better off.

On an overcast, chilly day, this was a very even game, with both sides looking strong at the back whilst also prepared to attack swiftly and directly. Canterbury took the lead on 38 minutes when a long ball was poked past the keeper only for the ball to hit the post, but luckily for Canterbury a forward was on hand to tuck the rebound into the net from a couple of yards. Coney Hall equalised on 54 minutes when a fierce shot was parried by the keeper but was tucked away by a lurking forward. Canterbury scored what proved to be the winner on 63 minutes when a long ball was controlled well and the forward kept his composure excellently when one-on-one with the goalkeeper and passed the ball into the net underneath the keeper's body. Coney Hall rarely threatened for the rest of the game and Canterbury claimed a win they just about deserved.