

TT No.84: Bob Davies - Sat 7 November 2009; **Boston Town 0, Long Buckby 2**; United Counties League Premier Division; Admission: £5, (grandson £3); Programme: 32pp, £1.00; Attendance: 60 h/c.

Another Saturday evening Ice Hockey match meant a trip into Lincolnshire. This time a new ground beckoned as one of the two UCL Premier Division I haven't visited were at home. This Saturday we avoided the A1 because of the road works at St Neots and made a detour over to Royston and up to Huntingdon on the A1198. We re-joined the A1 off the A14 at Huntingdon. From here it was up to Peterborough and then the A15 /A16 into a busy Boston. We passed the Boston United ground on the way round the town before branching off on the A1137 (Horncastle Road) towards the north west of Boston. This road runs into the B1183. From here, take a left turn into Redcap Lane turning left at the end into Tattershall Road. The entrance to the ground is situated on the right.

The ground looks to be in a state of refurbishment with new seats being put in place behind the far goal (The Dog End Stand). The standing accommodation on the left-hand side of the ground is also looking new and will be replicated on the opposite side as well as soon as time allows. Work has begun on a new perimeter fence as well. With three sides covered the ground can comfortably provide cover for over 1000 people. When we arrived at the ground the tea bar and bar were already open for the early arrivals like ourselves and we soon availed ourselves on what they had to offer.

We bought the match programme which bemoaned the fact that yet again the club found the home game clashed with Boston United today. A real shame that, because the football that took place during the afternoon was first class entertainment on a chilly afternoon and deserved a bigger audience.

After a tentative start between the sides the game soon blossomed out into an entertaining match. The visitors looked dangerous and were winning most headers in the Boston half. It was therefore no surprise when Jonathan Crockett headed home to give Long Buckby the lead after 18 minutes. Both sides continued to play attacking football with Boston finishing the half strongly but couldn't equalise by half time.

With only eight minutes gone in the second half the home side were reduced to ten men when Paul Goodhand was dismissed. Three minutes later Boston were given a chance to level things up when Lovas was brought down in the area. Up stepped captain Gary Bull but the veteran striker saw his spot kick saved low down at the right-hand post by keeper Oli Urquhart. Boston pushed forward despite being a man down and had no luck in their search to level things up. In fact, Long Buckby were looking increasingly dangerous on the break and with just 4 minutes remaining Dan Holman scored a second to make the game safe.

Both teams produced an entertaining game that was a credit to the United Counties League and I have no doubt that both will be challenging for League honours by the end of the season.

06/20