

TT No. 104: Bob Davies - Sat 30th October 2010; Colchester Double - **Colchester Utd** v Woking (FA Youth Cup 1) and **Stanway Rovers** v Leiston (Eastern Counties League Prem Division).

Matchday 1 - **Colchester United** (2) 3, Woking (2) 5; F.A. Youth Cup 1st Round; Played at Weston Homes Community Stadium, 1pm; Admission: £4; Prog: £1; Team sheet: Free; Attendance: 189; Refreshments and club shop both open.

Club website; <http://www.cu-fc.com>

Actually, managed a planned trip today without any last-minute gremlins. A "Colchester" double if you can call it that. Both new grounds for me.

As I don't usually visit League grounds but I thought this was a chance for me not to turn down with admission cheaper than car parking for a first team game! Bought a ticket from the club shop and picked a good programme outside (8 pages and they always issue for youth team games). Very well-appointed ground with an all seater 10,000 plus capacity. I'm sure there were lots of reviews when this ground first opened.

The game was the first time that the youth team had got to play at the stadium (817 days according to the programme, not that their counting!).

The game was a goal feast with Colchester at first threatening to over run their "Blue Square South" opposition and a goal after three minutes looked ominous. Woking scored and equaliser on 10 but fell behind again ten minutes later. Colchester still looked in control but Woking equalised second before the half time break. In the second period it was Woking that took their chances and strolled confidently into a 5-2 lead with goals on 52,66 and 83 minutes. Colchester did claim a consolation second half goal in stoppage time.

This was a good open game with plenty of chances for both sides, glad I went along!

Match 2 - **Stanway Rovers** 0, Leiston 0; Ridgeons Eastern Counties League, Premier, 3pm; Admission: £6 incl. prog; Bacon roll and coffee: £2.60; Attendance: 91.

A quick dash down the A12 to Stanway Rovers saw me getting out of the car just as the referee's whistle started the game. The ground has a narrow, covered terrace along the entrance side behind the goal and two small stands on one side. The dugout side has hard standing but not cover. Behind the far goal is very narrow, room for what like a couple of rows of spectators if that, I didn't venture round there. The club shop by the entrance was open and had Stanway pennants, hats, badges and programmes available. I was getting a bit peckish by this time so decided a bacon roll and a cup of coffee a better option!

The game itself was not too bad for a 0-0, there were chances for both sides but both "keeps" decided it was clean sheet day, so no goals. Leiston came nearest of breaking the deadlock, hitting the post in the first half. It was hard fought and got a bit niggly at times but entertaining.

I had spoken to a club official the previous evening and was informed that the programme editor had been taken ill but he prepared a smaller than usual programme for the game

He also furnished me with some programmes from previous games. A very friendly club and worth a visit when you're down that way.

As soon as the game ended it was back to the car and down to Rye House for the final speedway meeting of the season.

A long day but it was well worth it.

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