

TT No.111: *Bob Davies* - Sat 6th November 2010; **Renhold United** (1) (3) 3, Totternhoe FC (3) (3) 4, AET; Bedfordshire Senior Trophy 2nd Round; Played at: Renhold Playing Fields MK41 0LR; Admission: NIL; Programme: £1, (12 pages); Tea: 60p; Attendance: 32; Match Rating: 4.

I thought that this week I would take in a game in the Bedfordshire Senior Trophy. This competition comprises clubs from the Bedfordshire County League and the Spartan South Midlands League Division 1 & 2.

My chosen match in this round was a revisit to the village of Renhold where the currently unbeaten Renhold United of the Beds County League were taking on Totternhoe of the Spartan South Midlands League Division 2. Totternhoe themselves had only tasted defeat in one of their twelve League matches, so a tight contest looked on the cards.

The village of Renhold is situated about five miles south of Bedford and can be reached off the A421 where it joins up with the A428. It's clearly sign-posted and once leaving the double roundabout follow Green End Road which leads onto Top End; the ground is situated behind the Three Horseshoes public house. There's a gate from the pub car park that takes you on to the ground. The pitch is roped off and looked well prepared, two portable dug outs resided on the changing room side. The main building on the site, which also has an U12 and another senior pitch, houses the dressing rooms and has a kitchen from which refreshments can be bought. Chairwoman Lyn Dimmock was kept busy with this as the weather had a particularly autumnal feel about it.

Renhold United are one of only two Bedfordshire County League side that issue a match day programme (Dunton being the other) and secretary Keith Harlow produces a colourful 12 pager with match details on the front and teams on the back. Printed on card this excellent publication is on sale for just £1 and well worth it.

Onto the match itself which lived up to pre-game billing. Totternhoe started the much brighter of the two sides taking the lead from a 22-yard free kick struck home by Shaun Bishop on 13 minutes. Undaunted by this, the home side began to settle down and a more than even contest developed. It took until the 35th minute for Renhold to draw level, Jason Allinson firing home from just inside the area past the Totternhoe goalkeeper and captain Garry Duncan. Then came a crazy couple of minutes as Renhold went to pieces allowing Ross Scott all the room he needed to fire home from eight yards and then Gary Simpson got on to cross shot from Ian Feekes to put the visitors two goals ahead at the break.

The second half was a tighter game with fewer chances and it was on 82 minutes that player of match Oliver Housden rose above everybody to head home from a dead ball kick. This gave the home side the impetus needed to go in search of an

equaliser and equalise they did on 86 minutes with substitute Jamie Lally firing home from inside the box.

Extra time started with both teams striving for a breakthrough. The home side came closest being denied by the woodwork on two occasions. With just four minutes remaining until the dreaded penalty shoot-out and Renhold having missed a good chance to take the lead, it was Totternhoe that settled the tie as Chris Golding raced through to score the winner. So, despite a brave effort from the home that more than matched their SSML opponents for a lot of the time, it was Totternhoe that proceeded into the Quarter-Final draw.

07/20