

TT No. 121: *Bob Davies* - Sat 13th November 2010; **Sarratt** (0) 1, Frenford Senior (0) 0; Anagram Recs Trophy 1st Rd; Attendance: 25; Admission: nil; Programme: £1; Match rating: 3.5.

Today was the opening round of the Anagram Records Trophy which has a slightly longer official name as The Capital Counties Feeder League Trophy. The current season will see only clubs from the Herts Senior County League, Essex Olympian League and Spartan South Midlands League Division 1 & 2 competing. This is a far cry from previous seasons when clubs from the Hellenic and Combined Counties were taking part as well. Current holders of the Trophy are Padbury United of the SSML.

I had decided for some time that I would be attending the Sarratt FC (Herts Senior County League) debut in the competition. They would be taking on Frenford Senior (Essex Olympian League) in the first round. Frenford came to Sarratt as EOL Premier Division Leaders with just one defeat during the current campaign. They had also won this Trophy on two occasions previously in 2003-2004 and 2007-2008. So, no easy start for the "new boys".

The village of Sarratt lies about five and half miles north west of Watford. With the M25 in "car park" mode around the Kings Langley area I decided the best way in to Sarratt was the A41 at Hunton Bridge via the lanes. It may have been the easiest but I'm not a great lover of narrow lanes with subsiding floods in places, still made it into Sarratt without any problems. The King George playing fields, that has been home to Sarratt FC. since 1935, the ground being situated at the top of George V Way. It is clearly signposted before you reach the village green and the Cricketers public house. After parking up and obtaining the match day programme I made my way back to the Cricketers to sample one of the real ales they had on offer.

The football team share the playing field with the cricket team with all facilities being in the large pavilion which also has an overhang to keep spectators dry on an inclement day. The car park is separated from the pitch by a hedge, but it is not that high so anybody that wants to keep their car really safe should park outside the gates! Two brand new portable dug outs were stationed on the side of the pitch opposite the pavilion.

On to the game then; this one was a hustle and bustle cup tie with neither team giving an inch. Not too many chances before half time and not much more in the second half. It was going to take something special to break the deadlock and that didn't arrive until the 90th minute when a deep cross from the Sarratt right was headed powerfully back across the Frenford goal to nestle in the back of the net. Chris Honour indeed lived up to his name and took the honours for putting Sarratt in to the second round.

On my return home I turned right at the top of George V Way and returned to the M25 via Chipperfield and Kings Langley. This turned out to be a much better route

and even the M25 was flowing well, in my direction anyway, home by 4.30pm - I do like these early kick-offs!

Next up for the Hertfordshire side will be a home tie against another EOL side, Manford Way, who beat SSML side Pitstone & Ivinghoe, 3-0. Could be a game worth taking in on December the 4th if you haven't visited Sarratt before.

07/20