

**TT No. 161: Bob Davies** - Sat 22nd January 2011; **Epping FC (1) 1 v Letchworth Garden City Eagles (0) 2**; Anagram Records Trophy, 2nd Round; Admission: none; Programme: Free (12 pages, good issue); Refreshments; non available until after game! Attendance: 20; Match rating: ###.

Stonards Hill was the previous home of Epping Town who met their demise in season 1984-85 following resignation from Isthmian League during the season for financial reasons. There doesn't appear a lot left of the previous ground with floodlights and stand all long gone for safety reasons. The current club have played on the main pitch since the demise of the former Town club. The current ground has a small terrace part way along one side of the ground with a small covered standing area in the middle to protect against the elements.

The current club took the current name of Epping FC in 1999 but have been in existence since 1948 under the name of Coopersale FC. After playing on the outskirts of Epping in the village of Coopersale the club moved to play at one of the outer pitches at Stonards Hill in 1972. Another name change took place in 1992 when the club became Eppingsale FC to identify more with the town.

Epping FC have competed in the Essex Olympian League for a considerable number of years under their various guises and last season's fifth spot finish was their most successful season to date. Unfortunately, this season has been one of struggle on the field with the team claiming just one point from eight games and occupying last place in the Premier division.

With regard to the match, it was not a game that will live long in the memory so I'd better write this quickly! Epping started well against the Herts Senior League leaders and were rewarded with a Dave Patterson goal after ten minutes. The Eagles struggled to get their game together and despite growing stronger during the half failed to pull the deficit back by half time. The second half started much as the first had finished and it looked like one of those days for the Eagles in front of goal. Then it all changed as the visitors equalised on 63 minutes through Robert Groves and then took the lead four minutes later when Luke Garwood headed home. The home side faded and declined a glorious chance to equalise a few minutes later. After that Letchworth spurned several good chances to extend the lead but defended securely to halt any home comeback.

Straight into the car on the final whistle and back to Ware FC to see the second half of Wodson Park v Berkhamsted Town. Wodson led 1-0 at the break. The visitors hit back strongly in the second half but it was Wodson who created the clearer chances to extend their lead. Deep into stoppage time Berko claimed a soft equaliser and left the home side to rue the missed chances of the half. Still this was an improvement on the away result for Wodson that had been a 2-7 reverse on the opening day of the season.

Directions and address of Stonards Hill (taken from the EOL webstie):

Ground Location: Stonards Hill Recreation Ground, Tidys Lane, Epping. CM16 6SP;  
Tel: 07932 532 694 Steve Allen.

From Chelmsford; Take A414 towards Harlow, at the Talbot Public House roundabout, turn left and go through North Weald. Go through towards Epping and eventually pass St. Margaret's Hospital. Approach set of traffic lights, turn left then take first left into Tidys Lane. Follow road to end into ground.

From M11; Leave M11 at Junction 7 (Harlow turn off) take B1393 to Epping. Follow road about 4/5 miles at first set of traffic lights go straight over, and turn first left into Tidys Lane. Follow road to end into ground.

07/20