

TT No.227: Ian Brown - Sat 2nd April 2011; **Corinthian Casuals** v Ramsgate; Ryman League Div. 1 South; Result: 2-0; Admission: £8; Programme: £1.50; Corinthian Badge: £3.50; Draught Guinness: £3.20 (Pint); Coffee: £1.

With cheap tickets booked early in 2011 for £23 return, Leigh Brown Tours headed for the bright lights of London town. Leaving Lime Street at 07.48, we arrived on the dot of 10.00am at Euston. Time for breakfast, a 15-minute walk to the Metropolitan Wetherspoons by Baker Street Station via a stop at Euston Square to purchase our zone 1-6 travel card for £8 which would enable us to get out to Tolworth.

A large breakfast with black pudding (we are northerners after all) and large latte set us back £6.20 each. It made a change as it was more than slightly, lukewarm for once, definitely better value than the London Flyer. Was tempted to have a pint as the festival was on, but being a tight-fisted northerner, the price of £2.70, put me off a bit, plus it was only about 11.30am.

After the brekkie and another milky coffee had settled, we then made our way across to Waterloo using the Jubilee Line. Tolworth railway station, in the London Borough of Kingston Upon Thames in South London, is a station on the Chessington Branch some 12.08 miles (19.44 km) south west of Waterloo. The station is part of the London suburban network of South West Trains and is in Travel Card Zone 5.

The station, like all others on the branch, is built in the concrete style of the 1930s; it was opened, as the original terminus of the branch, on 29 May 1938. Station buildings are below at street level on the Kingston Road. The original goods depot is now partly a National Rail Freight Depot, operated by EWS. The remaining area of the site is owned by Transdev.

King George's Field is about ten to fifteen minutes' walk alongside the A3 from Tolworth Station. Duck under the railway bridge and there is the ground. It has character and oozes charm - definitely not state-of-the-art but the whole set-up smacks of a community club, steeped in the traditions associated with the names. The cover over the terracing is essentially a roof over scaffolding. On the club house side of the ground are leather couches at the back of the terracing. There's a similar structure behind each goal, and a seated stand of comparable proportions.

All the people we met concerned with club were very friendly and approachable; we watched the second half of the West Ham game in the surroundings of the well-appointed club house drinking pints of the back stuff which was on draft.

The history bit. The Corinthian-Casuals Football Club was formed in 1939 following the merger of the two great amateur sides bearing those names. The Corinthians were founded in 1882. N.L. "Pa" Jackson, who was then Assistant Honorary Secretary of the Football Association, aimed to develop a club side capable of

challenging Scotland at international level. A meeting was held at Jackson's offices in London's Paternoster Row - thus the club was born. The name came from a suggestion by England international, H.A. Swebstowe, which was accepted unanimously. The Casuals - recently discovered newspaper clippings suggest that they were founded in 1877, six years earlier than previously thought, though further investigation proved no direct connection and we are content to lay that myth to rest. The Corinthian-Casuals Football Club had played only one game when World War II broke out.

The match today looked to be heading towards a stalemate with Ramsgate possibly looking the more likely victors. This changed when Casuals introduced fleet-footed striker Carlton Murray-Price and bean-pole hit man Joel Thompson. From a Murray-Price run down the left a corner was conceded. The centre to the far post eluded the Rams rear guard and Scott Hassell charged forward to give the home team an 81st minute lead. Injury time brought chaos and with it two sending's off for Ramsgate. Ollie Gray was harshly judged to have held back Joel Thompson and shown the red card. Liam Quinn was then sent off for two bookable offences for dissent, the second being for sarcastically applauding the referee before Sam Robinson's penalty wrapped the game up for the home team. Mark Lovell was also cautioned after the game for dissent.

07/20