

TT No.45: *Paul Roth* - Sat September 4th 2010; Kent County League Div. 2 East; **Broadstairs FC vs. Guru Nanak FC**; Res: 2-0; Att: 20; Programme: 4 pages, £1; Altitude & Location: Jacky Bakers Playing Fields is 44 m (144.356 ft) above sea level - at a Latitude of 51 degrees, 21 mins N & a longitude of 1 degree, 23.9 mins E (position derived from centre circle); Club shop: None; Weather: Dry with an increasingly chilly breeze; Local MP: Laura Sandys (Cons).

On one of those days when travelling too far from home for my football hit was a non-starter, how opportune it was that Broadstairs FC were hosting Gravesend-based Guru Nanak FC for their first-ever Kent County League Division 2 East fixture. The game had added appeal when I learned from team manager and fixture secretary Gary Becket the previous day that the club would be issuing a matchday programme, which incidentally will be a permanence throughout the forthcoming season.

Having won the Canterbury and District Premier Division last term, Broadstairs FC - formerly, they were Lesters FC (their spiritual home is Lesters public house, along from the QEQM hospital, on the Ramsgate Road) but have changed name to make themselves more geographically identifiable - have accepted the challenge of this step-up in order that they might progress, initially within the KCL.

Having spoken to Chairwoman - who is also CE of the Community Development Finance Association - Bernie Morgan, at half-time, it appears there are plans afoot to find a more permanent base for the club within Broadstairs itself, although she kept schtum as to the actual whereabouts of that site. To be honest, that won't be a bad thing, as the team's current home is a somewhat open and soulless place, located in a rather, dare I say, less-than-salubrious area on the Margate/Ramsgate border; even on this pleasant-enough, late Summer's afternoon the cooling breeze had me wishing I'd worn one of my multi-coloured turtleneck jumpers!

The pitch used on this occasion is tucked away in the complex's south-western corner, and is part of a vast sports centre that includes cricket pitches, a floodlit Astro turf facility and has a brick-built changing room block at its hub.

Before the 2.45 pm kick-off Gary, an affable and immediately-likeable fellow, had made me most welcome, chatting openly to myself about the club's aspirations and apprehensions for the campaign ahead; he also furnished me with the neatly-produced, four-page programme.

His pre-match fears, notably about the quality of the opposition, were ultimately to be proved ungrounded, as his charges comfortably saw off newly-demoted Guru Nanak with two second-half goals; that said, the visitors did force two exceptional saves from the athletic home 'keeper, and once hit the crossbar.

It's so pleasing to be able to report on this medium the arrival of a new football club onto the Non-League circuit (they've already attracted two 'hoppers - I was

delighted to have been joined for the duration by fellow enthusiast Peter Jones) and I wish them every success as they sally forth upon their new adventure.

FGIF Star Rating: 4*.

The club has kindly given me 25 leftover programmes to sell to any groundhoppers who might require/like one. They are priced at £1.50p, which is inclusive of P&P. All proceeds will be forwarded to Gary Beckett.

E-mail me, paul.rth1@googlemail.com to secure a copy. First-come, first-served!

07/20