

TT No.17: Gyles Basey-Fisher - Mon 22nd August 2011; **Chelmsford City** v Farnborough; Blue Square North; Result: 2-2; Admission: £12.50 seat & £11.50 terrace; Programme: £2.50 (84 pages); Attendance: 764.

August brings my birthday and the annual bout of 'Mid Life Crisis'. Unlike most people it doesn't revolve around fast cars or wishing I was 21 again, well that's a lie, though basically the main thing is to go to as many football matches as possible to achieve my goals before it is too late! Catherine surprisingly puts up with this based on knowledge that by about mid-September I will get over it for another year, though it has had an effect on our young children with the eldest's first sentence being "Daddy gone football".

After parking in the large car park, you enter the ground via a brick-built block of 8 turnstiles paying £12.50 for a seat, which would seem about right considering I paid £15.00 at Forest Green Rovers last Friday night. I purchased probably the most professionally produced non-league programme I have ever seen for £2.50 - full of stats, past meetings, match reports, pen pictures, memories and lots of other information with 34 of the 84 pages being adverts.

There is an Athletics track around the pitch with two temporary terraces at each end, one open and one covered. They have been placed inside the track to bring fans closer to the action. Two seated stands face each other on the sides the main stand holding probably 1200 seats and the smaller one about 300? On a balmy early August evening the ground reminded me of some of the Stadiums I have visited on trips to the South of France and the sight of a Jambon un Fromage baguette, in the clubhouse, only helps to compound the image, though I do resist a glass of Cotes du Rhone!

The first 30mins seems to be remembered for the amount of times Chelmsford City gave away possession, which ended in the lively James going clear, rounding the keeper, but seeing his shot cleared on the line by the covering defender. Farnborough took the lead when a flick on was stabbed home from close range only for Chelmsford to level 5 minutes later with a low header into the corner of the net.

The second half saw Farnborough again take the lead with a very similar goal to the first. The game changed in a 6-minute period where, firstly Farnborough, subbed the dangerous James, which stopped them as an attacking force and then they had a player sent off for two tackles on the same player in the same place within 4 minutes of each other. In between this Chelmsford levelled again when a clearance was cleverly kept in, on the touch line, by Akurang who ran unchallenged into the box before scoring at the near post off the keeper. Although Chelmsford had a couple of headers that went just wide, they couldn't find a winner in the 20mins with the man advantage.

Anyway, AFC Hornchurch next and maybe that glass of vin rouge!

