

**TT No.100: 29/04/05 Ground/Club Focus: *Stephen Harris* - Rayners Lane (Hellenic 1E)**

Thursday 28 April 2005; Rayners Lane 6-0 Englefield Green Rovers; Hellenic League Div. I East; Att: 44; programme issued, £2 with admission.

I'm quite a fan of the Hellenic League but have long been conscious of the fact that I have never seen a game at the home of the nearest club in that league to where I live, Rayners Lane. A Thursday night fixture finally gave me the opportunity to put that right yesterday evening.

I'm not sure what I was expecting, but I was pleasantly surprised to find that Tithe Farm Social Club is a very neat and friendly little ground. It is dominated by the very large bar and dressing room block which fills one side. The other three sides are tightly enclosed by a tall and dense line of coniferous trees. There is hard standing on three sides and a neat white post and rail fence, set at a height where it was useful even for tallish people like me. On the far side there are two identical little covered standing areas, painted in brilliant white. I was the only spectator intrepid enough to venture round there and after a while loneliness drove me back to the tea bar side where everyone else had gathered.

Englefield Green Rovers were, frankly, not very good and got the thrashing they deserved. At least they took it in fairly good spirit, although the air was a little blue at times in the vicinity of the away dug-out.

After a bumper attendance of 74 on Tuesday night, when they put six past Hounslow Borough, Rayners Lane officials must have been a little disappointed with the turn-out of 44 last night. And even that was a rather generous interpretation of the numbers present I thought and must have included the little group of 'herberts' kicking a ball around in front of the social club. We were however treated to the sight of a mass arrival of blazers as the Middlesex County FA officials broke off from their committee meeting in the clubhouse and came and watched for a few minutes, temporarily doubling the crowd.

The club apologised for the thin nature of the programme, not surprising really as this was the third home game in six days. But I thought was rather a good effort actually and the best non-league programme I've seen in several weeks.

03/20