

TT No.101: 01/05/05 - Recent Travels (1): *Barry Neighbour* - Bradford City (FLC1); Worcester Park (CCL1); CML Hop; Holyport and Badshot Lea (both Hellenic 1E)

It has been a busy couple of weeks for me football - wise and I enclose a brief summary of my recent travels.

Saturday 16th April saw a trip up north to Valley Parade Bradford to see Brentford take on **Bradford City**. 4-0 down at half-time and you know it is not going to be your day. The Bees pulled a goal back in the second half but a 1-4 defeat did little to enhance our promotion prospects. A 64-page programme sold for £2.50.

Tuesday 19th and I was a bit nearer to home at **Worcester Park** as they took on Sheerwater in the Combined Counties League Division 1. A 32-page programme was given away free which consisted of 12 pages of adverts and 20 pages of stats with no written text at all (not even to welcome the opposition).

Two days later and it was even more local as I travelled three miles down the road to watch **Finchampstead** entertain Letcome in a Hellenic Division 1 East game. A last-minute goal gave Finch a 3-2 win. An informative 32-page programme sold for a £1.

The following day (Friday 22nd April) came the drive to Nottingham with fellow travellers Alan Gulliford, Gerry McGill and Les Jewiss for the Central Midlands League Hop. A visit to **Blackwell Miners Welfare** saw Gedling win a tight game 1-0. A 44-page programme sold for £1. Travelling on the official coach on the Saturday saw visits to **Santos** v Bentley Colliery (1-5) with a 24-page programme - no price on cover; **Forest Town** v runaway champions AFC Barnsley. This looked an away banker but a physical encounter finished with a disappointing 0-0 (that will bring an end to a few sequences). A 28-page programme sold for £1. **Rainworth MW** v Teversal saw a 0-2 score-line and a 40-page programme (no price given). We finished up at **Welbeck Welfare** who went down 1-2 to a last-minute goal by a strong Pinxton side. The 28-page programme cost £1.

Back home and two Hellenic League Division 1 East games followed this week with a visit to **Holyport's** new ground at Summerleaze Village on Tuesday 26th April for the game against basement side Bisley Sports. The facilities are very basic at this stage but the cricket clubhouse was open for refreshments. The 40-page programme cost £2 including admission but did include a free cup of tea or coffee. The quality of football was poor with both sides making a lot of errors although it led to a fairly entertaining game which the home side won 3-1. On to Thursday 28th April and a visit to **Badshot Lea** in a game rearranged from the previous Saturday when visitors Banbury United Reserves mini bus broke down. This time they arrived in a 53-seater coach at 6.50 for a 6.30 kick off! The game eventually started at 7.00 and was reduced to 40 minutes each way and a 5-minute turn around at half time. The 32-page programme from the Saturday game was reissued

and sold for £2 including admission (as with Holyport if you did not want a programme admission was free). Banbury did not let the delayed start affect them as they raced into a 4-1 half time lead. The second half was disappointing and it ended with no further goals. Anyone who has not been to Badshot Lea should do so next season as they plan to move to a new ground in 2007 in Farnham. This game brought me up to 500 goals for the season in 125 games and was my 47th new ground. Barry.

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