

TT No. 114: 09/05/05 Recent Travels: *Dave Reed* - Shottermill (CCL1); Bookham (CCL1); Chipstead (CCLP); St Andrews (Anglian Comb) and Mummery Cup Final (at Wroxham)

On Saturday 30th April we paid a visit to Shottermill in the Combined Counties League. This enabled me to make an immediate return to Hammer United to take some pictures of the ground which I had been unable to do on the previous Sunday. Unfortunately, the goals had been taken down but I was still able to get shots of the clubhouse and the unique stand situated on the grass bank. At **Shottermill**, for their game against table toppers Coney Hall, we found that the home side were not playing on their usual pitch (some two hundred yards from the changing rooms) but rather strangely were playing on a pitch in front of but running lengthways from the said building. A minimal programme was issued and we nearly got a copy of Monday's as well in which the editor had tongue in cheek claimed that they had won today's game 3-0 with the goalkeeper amongst the scorers. In fact, he got the score correct but it was the visitors that proved successful.

On Bank Holiday Monday, our first port of call was to **Bookham** where the home side were entertaining Bedfont Green, the other title aspirants. There were several Travellers present, who all got a copy of the programme, with slightly more content than Saturday's, to witness the home side, third in the table completely rout the under-strength visitors 5-1. This result handed the title to Coney Hall and rendered next Saturday's game between the top two virtually meaningless. The afternoon saw us at **Chipstead** and gave us a chance to try out their new stand which has replaced the old wooden structure that had stood for many years. There were more goals here as the home side went down 5-2 to Godalming.

Last Saturday I was in a full car driven by Geoff Combes as we made for a double in Norfolk. A 2.30 kick off saw us at **St Andrews** for their Anglian Combination game against unbeaten leaders Blofield United. This fixture had originally been abandoned, due to snow I believe, earlier in the season with the visitors winning 1-0. They made no mistake this time with a 2-0 win to finish the season with an unbeaten record. With the home side playing on the pitch furthest from the clubhouse (there is a hole in their usual pitch) and no cover at all at the ground except for a portable shed on the halfway line which doubles as a tea bar, we were lucky not to get caught by any showers until late on in the game when we took shelter under some trees in one corner of the pitch. Admission was £1 for a 24-page programme inside a shiny shell but only the middle four pages were not advertisements.

It was then on to **Wroxham** (via the Station Inn in Coltishall - an excellent hostelry) for the Mummery Cup Final between Acle United and Cromer Town. This game had everything with Acle four goals up after seventeen minutes including two perfect chips over the Cromer keeper and a penalty. Cromer managed to pull a

goal back early in the second half but soon conceded again with a brilliantly taken own goal from a defender who came running in to hammer home an Acle corner. The Cromer keeper then went off injured to be replaced by an outfield player. Shortly after there was a nasty clash of heads, purely accidental, which meant a considerable delay before Cromer's Darren Terrington was stretchered off the field badly concussed and cut. Having used their three substitutes, Cromer were now down to ten men but they pulled a goal back from the penalty spot after the Acle keeper had brought down Cromer's Karl Horton. To finish an eventful game, Acle's Steven Barnes and Cromer substitute David Harwood were sent off after a midfield scuffle. Maybe the football was not of the highest quality but the match, which at times was played in heavy rain, was certainly entertaining.

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