

TT No.122: 29/05/05 Club/Ground Focus: *Barry Neighbour* - Mauritius Sports (Middlesex County League) at Broadfields

The season finally came to an end for me on Saturday 28th May with a visit to **Broadfields** to see **Mauritus Sports** v Brentford New Inn in the Middlesex County League. Mauritius' ground in Tottenham closed last week so the game was switched to Brentford's base at Broadfields. I had previously visited Broadfields a couple of seasons back but was happy to return to see a game. Unfortunately, the `Home` team (Mauritus) did not turn up until five minutes to three meaning the kick off was delayed by 15 minutes. There was also a 5-a-side tournament on so the place was packed, though not too many were watching the game. With Mauritius already guaranteed bottom spot and Brentford not much higher, the game turned out to be pretty even with Brentford taking the lead half way through the first half only for Mauritius to strike back in controversial style. A forward rifled the ball past Brentford's keeper only to see it strike the post and bounce out across the face of goal. Incredibly the linesman flagged a goal which was given by the ref; these must have been the only two people present who thought it went in (everyone else thought the ball had struck the post and come out - so it was not the lager that got me confused!!). Despite a couple of stoppages in the 2nd period, eyebrows were raised when Mauritius scored the winner in the 99th minute, according to the guy next to me with his stopwatch. An adequate 8-page programme was issued for a `donation`.

The Brentford Secretary retired after the game and says the future of Brentford New Inn looks very bleak for next season due to the increased travelling they now have to do. Fellow league side Martin Baker Sports are also said to have folded. Other news suggests that Spennymoor United have merged with Evenwood and will play at Spennymoor next season.

My final figures for the season are: 133 games seen and 522 goals scored - making 3.92 Goals per game (I was well on course for 4 a game until the last half dozen games which produced just 14 goals). Ironically, I have visited 52 new grounds, the same amount as the previous 3 seasons. Definitely got to do 53 grounds next season!!

03/20