

TT No.043: 06/03/05 Ground/Club Focus: *Paul Roth* - Goole AFC (NCELP)

Sat 5th March 2005; GOOLE TOWN V BRODSWORTH MINERS WELFARE; RES: 4-0;
Programme 18 pages £1.

As the NCEL hots up into a grandstand finish I thought I would take the opportunity to have a look at one of the top teams. So off I set at 5-30a.m. to travel to Goole for their game versus Brodsworth M W arriving at 12-20p.m. I had, by seconds, missed my rail connection at Doncaster so travelled to Thorne South on a later train in order to "tick" a couple of GBG pubs and then on from Thorne North to Goole. The train passes their Pleasure grounds stadium as you enter the town and I was dismayed to see water laying on the surface and no goal nets up! A quick phone call alleviated my angst---game on!!!!!! A real relief this as it had been bucketing down as I arrived in town.

A few beers later and I arrived at the ground which is set at the end of a row of terraced houses very central to the town. There are two covered areas opposite each other which provided welcome shelter and a five-lane running track encircles the pitch (usually I detest stadiums like this but actually didn't mind this one). A glossy 18-page programme sold for a pound and a good read it made too in their small clubhouse before kick-off.

Goole were soon a goal to the good and Brodsworth were undone by a serious knee injury to a key defender as well as having a player sent off. 2-0 it was at half time and chance to sample some "pie, peas and gravy with mint sauce - "lurveerly!!!! Quickly after the restart the home team made it three from a penalty (there was a piece in the programme saying how extraordinary the season had been for how many spot-kicks the club had been awarded) and on the stroke of 90minutes added a fourth with the best goal of the match--a 25 yarder screeching into the top of the net.

With all the other contenders winning this league is really going down to the wire There are 5 or 6 teams in with a real chance of snatching the title and of course promotion. Great stuff!!!!

03/20