

TT No.048: 12/03/05 Ground/Club Focus: *Paul Roth* - Cray Valley PM (Kent County League)

Saturday 12th March 2005 CRAY VALLEY PM VS. STANSFELD O&B CLUB

Kent county inter-regional cup s/f; Result 1-0; Programme £3 with entry.

A few options were open to me today and after my first-choice match of Easington Sports vs. Tytherington Rocks was cancelled due to the Glos. side having cup commitments I opted for the short trip up the M2 to take in this Kent county Inter Regional Cup tie. These teams are close neighbours and I fear not much love is lost between them with Cray getting the better of things in recent encounters.

Cray's Middle Park Avenue ground is situated off the old Yorkshire Grey roundabout (now a McDonalds in place of the famous old pub) at Eltham and quite a decent set up it is. There is hard standing along the nearside as you enter the ground through the metal fencing and a very good social club selling beer and hot and cold food. A very good 20-page programme sold for £3 including entry; it is well produced with colour photos of recent games and lots of up-to-the-minute club information.

A crowd of about 75 witnessed a very tight tussle between two well matched sides with the only goal coming in the 29th minute from a well hit free kick from just outside the area. In all honesty chances today were at a real premium and neither side looked like scoring again but the match always remained competitive if not a bit bruising.

A couple of quirky things about the day. First, the really odd pub I visited for a "half" on my way to the game - "The Howerd Club"; listed in various GBGs this has to be one of the oddest drinking establishments I have ever visited. Situated at the back of a church hall, dedicated to the memory of the late comedian Frankie Howerd, it is 15 mins walk from the ground and is worth a visit alone for its pure uniqueness.

Secondly, this is the third time I have encountered Stansfeld O&B club and their "sending offs" tally far outnumbers their goals for account on the occasions I have come across them. In fact, it stands at "sending offs" 5 - "goals" 0!

Another great day out and back home by 5-15pm. The wife could not believe it!!

03/20