

TT No.051: 17/03/05 Ground/Club Focus: *Barry Neighbour* - Bishop Sutton (Western League P) and Thatcham Town (Wessex League 1)

Saturday 12th March saw me return to the West Country for the second time in a week to take in the game at **Bishop Sutton** v Corsham Town. As with the previous Saturday I again picked up travelling companions Alan Gulliford and Gerry McGill at Basingstoke and also had my son Ian in the car as well. Bishop Sutton is a basic but picturesque ground with a new stand and clubhouse. It is railed off but immediately behind the goal at the far end is a ditch with hardly any room for spectators. A 16-page programme was given away with the £4 admission price but apart from a couple of match reports and pen pictures contained little reading material, not even a League table. A healthy crowd of around 70 watched a poor game devoid of any real skill brought to life by a Beckham style free kick to give Corsham the points. It was a cracking goal which looked totally out of place to the rest of the game. Corsham were on a run of 16 games unbeaten but showed little in this game.

Tuesday 15th March saw a short trip down the M4 to **Thatcham Town** as they took on Sandhurst Town in the Berks & Bucks Trophy Semi Final. This was a much better game which saw Thatcham awarded an early penalty which was well saved by Paul Cann in the Sandhurst goal but he had no chance a minute later when a volley screamed past him into the top corner. Sandhurst slowly fought their way back and were rewarded after half an hour when they converted a penalty to make it 1-1 and were on top up 'til half time. Thatcham came out and caught Sandhurst cold with a goal within 2 minutes - the Thatcham player was unmarked to head home from 6 yards.

Another stunning shot made it 3-1 and there was no way back as Thatcham ran out comfortable winners. A 36-page programme sold for £1 which contained loads of stats and updated League tables.

03/20