

**TT No.062: 30/03/05 Ground/Club Focus: *Paul Roth* - Axminster Town (Devon & Exeter League)**

AXMINSTER TOWN V SIDBURY UTD; Axminster Hospital Cup 2nd round; RESULT: 8-0; Programme: 24 pages £1-50 including admission.

Like many other 'Hoppers, I stayed on down in Devon after the official Devon hop had ended and took in this extra fixture. Axminster play in the Devon and Exeter League and I was really surprised how good their Sector Lane ground is (it would not be out of place in the Devon league itself, which is the club's aim).

Turning into the ground, the clubhouse is on the left with car parking available behind the near goal and on the far side. Club officials were selling the excellent 24-page programme adorned with a tiger's head on the cover (the Tigers being their nickname). This sold for £1-50 and included entry. A barbeque was selling burgers and hotdogs. Immediately to the right is a railed-off section that gently slopes upwards giving the spectator an elevated view of the playing area and the rolling countryside away in the distance. There is no covered accommodation but that was of no consequence today as it was mild but overcast.

I hadn't realised that the opposition were 3 divisions below their hosts. This soon became evident as the home side strolled away to a ridiculously easy 8-0 win and, in truth, should have scored many more.

Across the road from the club is the Lamb public house which I can recommend for its super real ale sourced from the nearby Branscombe Vale Brewery; not a GBG entry but soon to be so I was told.

Axminster Town had pulled out all the stops to make the hundred or so crowd most welcome and they should be congratulated for their tremendous efforts.

On Easter Monday I went along to see Newton Abbot Spurs play Buckland Athletic and experienced the rare sight of the home keeper scoring his teams' only goal in their 1-1 draw.

Another fun weekend in glorious Devon.

03/20