

**TT No.069: 03/04/05 Ground/Club Focus: *Paul Roth* - Buckingham Athletic (SML1)**

BUCKINGHAM ATH. v WINSLOW UTD; SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLAND LGE. DIV 1; RESULT: 1-1; Programme 50p; Entrance £2-50.

As Buckingham Athletic are at the top of their division pushing for promotion and as this was a local derby, I thought this could be an interesting game to watch. So, I set off up the M2 arriving in the picturesque town at the stupidly early time of 12-30. After a lengthy walk around the town I parked up at their attractive Stratford fields ground. The ground is situated just outside the town on the A413. It is fully railed off and is at its most handsome viewed from the far end as you enter (from there you get a view of all the conifers enclosing the field and the high hillside ascending beyond) The impressive, if small, main stand sits proudly beneath this backdrop.

My hopes for an enjoyable game were not realised as the match soon became a very niggly affair and after 15 minutes an ambulance had to be summoned when the Winslow no.3 appeared to break a leg. The half hour delay did nothing for the match and a disappointing first half ended 0-0. The second was not much better although Buckingham did take an undeserved lead before a mass brawl reduced them to 10 men. Soon afterwards Winslow equalised and should have gone on to win.

The clubhouse could only offer a cup of tea as there was no food at all. There is a B P garage next door for one's catering needs. A poor programme sold for 50p.

So, as is sometimes the case, a match that looks appealing on paper didn't work out to be quite the case. Luckily there is always next week!

03/20