

TT No.071: 04/04/05 Easter Hop notes - 25th & 26th March: Dennis Woods

I am shocked that I have not seen any pictures from the Easter Hop, perhaps everybody like me thought that somebody else would do it. No doubt most of you were there so I won't bore everyone with details of the match or ground other than **University of Exeter** beat Crediton United 4-1 in front of a crowd of 271. A 20-page programme including a glossy cover was given away of entry to the ground. Isn't the covered area amazing and the banking around the ground excellent!

Next onto **St Loyes**, via the Tap and Barrel pub, well I had to see where the club started from didn't I. It was nice to see around 30 other hoppers had the same idea (you know the usual crowd) and the Landlord must have thought that New Year's Eve had come early. It wasn't long before we drank them dry of the only hand pump ale on offer and the pub cleared as quick as it had filled. Still at least this meant that everybody made it back to the ground for kick off! Another nice setting on a lovely afternoon weather wise. A crowd of 276 were present. A 32-page programme was issued for a £1, including a glossy cover.

The third game of the day saw us at **Budleigh Salterton**. I had not visited the ground before so this was a new 'tick' for me. As most of you will know the pitch has been turned around and a new seat stand added since the last Devon Hop. This has meant that the cover is now behind the goal. The ground is quite open. A 60-page programme with glossy cover was issued, but it mostly contained adverts.

What a lovely setting at **Plymouth Parkway**. A crowd of 322 were present and a 56-page programme was issued again with a glossy cover.

Cullompton Rangers. Another fine ground that some of you may have done on a previous Devon Hop in the rain. Again, this was a new 'tick' for me. 215 were in attendance and a 36 page was issued for 50p. The programme consisted of a glossy shell of 20 pages and a 16-page insert. However, a certain Barry Neighbour did not receive the insert only the adverts and didn't realise until he got home. Don't worry Barry I will un-staple my copy and photocopy the pages for you. A steam train also passed the ground during the game, but unfortunately my camera was not at hand. Did anyone else get a picture of it passing the ground?