

Trouble in bargain-basement football league

James and Gareth – Thursday 16 March 2017

On Saturday 4th March, Hereford FC (the runaway leaders of the league) travelled to Oxfordshire club Didcot Town – most famous for getting to the FA Cup 1st round last season – for an Evo-Stik Southern League Division 1 South & West game where a scrap occurred when Hereford striker Mike Symons netted home to make it 2-1 to Hereford.

A trouble-filled game, involving a penalty and a red card from each team, turned into chaos when two fans stormed onto the pitch and confronted the goalkeeper, Leigh Bedwell, who had mocked the Hereford fans at the reverse fixture back in October when Didcot scored a ninety-fifth minute equaliser. This led to a brawl between about twenty Hereford fans and five Didcot Town players, leading to the forced abandoning of the match. Many police were called to the scene including two riot vans, two dog cars and five normal police cars. Consequently, three arrests took place including a wrongly accused person.

Interview with a Hereford FC fan:

“What are your thoughts on the Didcot trouble? It was caused by two fans who stupidly ran onto the pitch. It wasn’t helped when two or three Didcot players ran over and started getting involved when it was being calmed down.”

We have a statement from both clubs twitter accounts: Hereford FC: “After studying video footage and photographs from the Didcot game, Hereford FC have submitted a report as requested, to the Southern League and the FA, we have comments and observations, together with all available evidence and footage gathered following Saturday’s abandoned match.

Whilst the club wait to hear from the Southern League and FA officials we will be making no further comment.”

Didcot Town FC: “Didcot Town FC are very disappointed that violence resulted in the game versus Hereford FC being abandoned this afternoon. Didcot Town FC will continue to work closely with all relevant authorities, Hereford FC and other concerned parties to assist in all forthcoming enquiries. We will not be making any more comments at this stage.”

Just a week later another problem occurred at their next game at Bideford AFC where some Plymouth Argyle fans were just at the game to cause trouble after the final whistle. They were hitting everything in their path and they also hit a young fan at the game.