

**TT No.025: 13/02/05 Club/Ground Focus: *Andy Sneddon* - Fulwood Amateurs (West Lancashire Prem)**

I arrived at Fleetwood Hesketh's ground 90 mins before KO only to find a ref who couldn't make his mind up. "Hang around til 2-45 and if it stays dry til then we should be OK". Erm thanks, but no thanks. Having driven through countless windswept rain and hail showers on the short trip to Southport the omens weren't good. A quick call to another West Lancs League Premier Division club Fulwood Amateurs confirmed their game as definitely on so I reversed my tracks and headed back to Preston. (A quick aside here, Fleetwood Hesketh did play and do still issue a decent programme, so may well be worth bearing in mind when the weather's grim. And yes, Fleetwood Hesketh play in Southport for the geographically confused!).

For those who haven't been, Fulwood's ground is a slightly unusual affair in that Sunday to Friday it becomes a gold driving range. This does however give virtual full width cover behind one goal which was very welcome on a wild and showery day. Since my last visit some 10 or more years ago they've added a large overhang to the dressing room block down one side and built a tiny cover on the other side with 10 individual plastic seats. Both sides are railed and all four sides have hard standing of one sort or another.

The entrance is through the car park of Preston Grasshoppers RFC (whose ground runs parallel next door) and the princely sum of £1 covers admission and a very neat and presentable 16-page programme. There is a small tea room and bar at the end of the golf driving range bays which served hot drinks and an excellent meat and potato pie.

Real Ale is always available in the club house of the Rugby Club next door. The pitch held up very well indeed and has always been a good "banker" in the area on poor weather days.

For the record the home side beat struggling visitors Bae Barrow (formerly Vickers SC) 3-0, in front of a crowd of 47.

03/20