

**TT No.046: 08/03/05 Ground/Club Focus: *Andy Molden* - Lydney Town
(Gloucestershire Northern Senior League 1)**

Lydney Town (3) 5 Broadwell Ams (0) 0; Gloucestershire Senior Amateur Cup (North) Semi Final; Att: 184 (head count)

Lydney are miles ahead in their league and are on course to come into the Gloucester County next season. I had previously tried to do the ground on May 1982, but in those pre-traveller days I turned up for an afternoon kick-off only to find it had been switched - I ended up doing Barry v Witney in the Southern League - no programme issued.

Twenty-three years later and I'm back at Lydney. I arrive at 12.30pm and confirm everything is ok. By 1.30pm I'm getting a bit worried as the programmes have not appeared yet (too much travelling with Mr Burt!). At 1.40pm they arrive and the chap is duly given a good talking to for forgetting the game is 2pm and not 3pm! You get a pre-printed shell with numerous advertising sheets including an 8-page insert, all for £1 including admission.

It seems a number of the crowd have forgotten it is a two o'clock kick-off! Gradually more people turn up as the game kicks off. By 2.20pm there are 146 around the pitch and this increases to 184 at half-time. The league game at Xmas between the two sides had a crowd in excess of 200.

Lydney are well on top but can't score. A good diving header midway through the first half though gives them the lead. Then after two comical errors by the Broadwell keeper Lydney take in a 3-0 lead at the break.

The large clubhouse, which is packed to the rafters, is doing a roaring trade, particularly in large rolls which cost £1.

The second half starts with Broadwell trying to get back into the game. As the half goes on Lydney get back on top and with a few minutes to go the homesters left winger - number 22 (would some ace doyens not like that!) skips down the wing, beats the whole of the defence, clips a ball into the centre where an advancing midfielder blasts the ball into the net. If the keeper had got a hand to it, he would have been down to the hospital!!

Despite not having the trainers on the field of play the ref. plays 8 minutes of stoppage time, needless to say Lydney score a delightful free kick from 20 yards out to round the game off.

The local rag states that the club wants to get back to its former glories of Hellenic football, though crowds of 15 at Clanfield may take the gloss off that.

To find the ground, (if travelling north to south through the town) take a left turn signed "free parking". The entrance to both the Football Club and Rugby Club are just after the free carpark and next to the preserved railway station. The ground is

fully railed off and the club are currently erecting new brick built dug-outs. A fine clubhouse and dressing complex are also on site. In fact, the clubhouse had just had new carpets laid and a number of spectators were asked to clean their shoes before entering!

The game had compulsory Lino's as it was a cup semi. The club "always" issue; they have one scheduled midweek home game in early April (though this may increase as they are now in the County Cup final) plus a number of Saturday home fixtures left to play. A good tick.

Checking my records, I have now ascertained programmes from 10 clubs in this league over the years.

03/20