

TT No.052: 19/03/05 Ground/Club Focus: *Mike Latham* - Radcliffe Borough (Unibond League Prem)

Sat 19 March 2005, Unibond Premier League; Radcliffe Borough 0-2 Workington (attendance: 295)

Stainton Park is the well-appointed home of Radcliffe Borough FC whose game against leaders Workington on a beautifully sunny and warm afternoon, with temperatures close to 20 degrees, attracted a crowd of 295, including a healthy contingent from West Cumbria.

Named after a local builder, Stainton Park has been Boro's home since 1970 and its appearance is testimony to the hard work and dedication of local people. A smart seated stand, with four rows of neat blue seats behind the top goal is the focal point of the ground. To its right is located the club house and three separate covered standing areas while the other two sides are uncovered standing. An enclosure in front of the social club is reserved for members.

Admission was £7 adults and a superb 36-page programme full of up-to-date statistics and interesting articles sold for £1- truly a labour of love for its two compilers.

Bernard Manning, the famous (or infamous) comedian is the club president with his son, Bernard Manning Jnr the chairman. Long-serving manager Kevin Glendon is also on the board and serves as a commercial manager.

The Boro' complex also includes an impressive all-weather sports complex with floodlit astro turf courts able to accommodate soccer, hockey, tennis, netball and cricket teams. Boro' regularly hold childrens' soccer schools at the venue and also host community six-a-side leagues.

To be found on the Bolton Road out of Radcliffe, and reached by the road opposite the Turf Hotel, Stainton Park is located just after the town's impressive cricket ground with its imposing pavilion.

A friendly club, with some of the best facilities around, a visit to Stainton Park is highly recommended. There is a well-stocked club shop and the only disappointment was that the catering facilities had been given over to an outside contractor serving greasy food from a chuck wagon.

Workington scored twice in the first half to maintain their lead at the top of the Unibond Premier League, impressing with their style of play with Gary Cohen and Matthew Henney the goal-scorers. Under manager Tommy Cassidy's direction the Reds, who lost their Football League status 28 years ago, are well worth watching and their revival has been one of the highlights of the Unibond season.