

TT No.055: 21/03/05 Ground/Club Focus: *Dave Reed* - Liversedge (NCEL P)

I went to Liversedge on Saturday. Having got to bed shortly after midnight, (returning from Wealdstone's game against Slough), I was up at 6.15 to get to Kings Cross for the 8.10 train to Leeds. An hour-long bus journey (but cheap at £1.20) took me to Cleckheaton. I usually like to get to places early so I had plenty of time to locate the ground and return to the town centre (about 10-15 minutes-walk away) for my usual trip to the local Real Ale pubs.

Returning for the football, I was accosted by the gateman who identified me as a Groundhopper and then tried to sell me for a fiver the contents of a plastic bag containing programmes and some rugby books. I had been warned that he might be difficult to shake off and so it proved. Future visitors - you have been warned!!

Despite being quite close to the town, the views from the Clayborn Ground are mostly rural. There is cover behind the goal at the entrance end and along the left-hand side is a low stand with three rows of seats. One building in the left-hand corner at the top of the bank houses the changing rooms, clubhouse and tea-bar. The team line-ups were pinned up in the lean to outside the clubhouse. The pitch is anything but flat as it slopes up and down and from side to side.

The home side dominated the first half but only had a single goal to show for it at half-time. A somewhat controversial penalty for handball ten minutes into the second half brought the sides level and visitors Sheffield 'nicked' the points with a winner a couple of minutes from time. I thought it rather strange that the three officials came from Blackburn and Accrington, rather more in NW Counties League country. A decent programme sold for £1, consisting of 36 pages inside a colour cover. (Incidentally, Wealdstone's programme was also 36 pages inside a colour cover but sold for £1.50. However, with more reading matter it was good value).

Although I was 'bushed' by the time I got home at 10.15, it had been an excellent day out in glorious spring weather.

03/20