

TT No.068: 03/04/05 Ground/Club Focus: *Andy Sneddon* - Rivington (West Lancashire League Div. 2)

Rivington 0 Glaxo Ulverston Rangers 0 West Lancashire League Division 2; Att: 15;
Programme: 36 pages, 50p

With very few left to do in the West Lancs League we decided to tick off Rivington on a wonderfully warm afternoon, as work commitments ruled out a longer trip. The Rivs no longer use their original ground at Rivington School in the picturesque village that gives them their name, but now use the former home of ex Manchester League outfit British Aerospace Lostock on the edge of the neighbouring town of Horwich. The ground is tricky to find unless you know where to turn, but thankfully the club put a decent sign outside to guide the unwary though the imposing steel gates.

From M61 Jct. 6 take the turning towards Bolton's Reebok stadium. At the lights where you would turn left for the Reebok, turn right and look for some large steel gates on your left-hand side after a couple of hundred yards or so. Go through the gates and follow the badly potholed road down to the dressing rooms on your left. There is parking here or you can carry on down the road and park up round the back of the old factory overlooking the ground. Although this sounds a bit grim it's perfectly safe as you can watch the game from some grand elevated views with the cars, or walk down to pitch side. The ground is actually part of the old Bae site and is a of ground massive contrasts, with pleasantly rural views on one side and a badly run down backdrop of (mostly) unused industrial units and factories on the other.

The pitch itself is railed on both sides with dugouts, and hard standing down the sides also. It is hemmed in at the Southern end by a high steel fence to stop the ball going up into the factory area, but the Northern end is open and backs onto Lostock RUFC's pitch. The programme is sold from pitch-side by the sponge man!

The views from up behind the goal looking down on the pitch and to Winter Hill and Rivington Pike beyond are superb and provide a remarkable contrast to the grime and dereliction behind.

I'll gloss over the game as it was a turgid end of season affair without a meaningful shot on goal all afternoon. I suppose I was due one after averaging over 5 goals a game until this point this season!

The interesting venue more than made up for it though.