

**TT No.009: 22/01/05 Club/Ground Focus: *Andy Sneddon* - Meltham Athletic FC; West Riding Challenge Cup 4th Round;**

Meltham Athletic (Huddersfield & Dist Lge Div 1) 7 Tyersal (West Riding Co Am Prem Division) 5; Att: 110; Prog: 4pp 50p (regular issue).

Sometimes things just all fall into place. Having had a week of various strife's and illnesses at home plans to go to Coxhoe were abandoned in favour of something closer to home. After a couple of e-mails and a phone call we finally ascertained that the game at Meltham was going ahead just two hours before KO. By the time we set off this had shrunk to just under hour and a half. Screeching to a halt in the car park with 5 minutes to spare it was time for Paul to go "paper chasing" and we finally found the holy grail with a couple of minutes of the game gone, for sale from the home "bench". It was at this point I realised I'd left the camera at home so the scenic delights of Meltham will have to be captured by someone else.

The top and bottom of it all was this: The game was incredible. Played on a just fit surface (a fine mixture of thick black mud, grass and a little ice) both defences found the going tough and the momentum swung back and forth. After taking an early lead and looking the better side though, Tyersal's defence started to struggle against the pace of the home attack and went in at half time 3-1 down. This became 4-1 straight after half time before another reply had the game at 4-2. Two further quick strikes from the home-sters took it to a seemingly unassailable 6-2 before the visitors scored 3 in 5 minutes (including 2 pens, both clear cut and I'm pleased to say, not disputed). Another pen in the last five minutes (again clear and undisputed) finally settled an amazing game 7-5 in Meltham's favour.

This now takes them to 28 goals scored in the four rounds of the competition so far, all against sides from supposedly "higher" leagues. Add this to the 57 goals they've scored in the First Division of the Huddersfield and District League (in 8 straight wins) and it's clear to see they're an exceptional side. There is talk of Meltham joining the West Riding Co Am next season and, on the park, they're more than ready. The pitch would need railing off but the changing and social facilities are superb. The first- floor bar balcony providing a fine (if slightly distant) view of the game from where to enjoy a pint of real ale (Tetley's, but owt's better than nowt!).

The pitch itself is semi enclosed by dry stone walls but there are currently no pitch-side facilities. However, the bar is superb, the views spectacular, the welcome warm and they issue for every home game. What more do you want?

For more info check out the club's excellent website:

<http://www.melthamafc.co.uk/> and Huddersfield and District League site:

<http://www.hdafl.org.uk> WebEd - Cheers Andy. Inspirational!

