

**TT No.097: 27/04/05 Ground/Club Focus: *Andy Sneddon* - Lytham St. Anne's (West Lancashire Division 1)**

Lytham St Annes 4 Poulton Town 0; Tues 26th April 2005; West Lancashire League Division One; Att: 40 (eventually!); Admission: No charge; Programme: 12pp, by donation.

A quick £10 to the babysitter enabled Dad to finally nip out on a Tuesday and tick off Lytham St Annes' new ground in the West Lancs League.

After many years sharing the facilities at Lytham Cricket Club, Lytham St Annes FC are finally on a ground they can use all through the season. They have moved this season to the revamped Lytham YMCA ground on Mythop Road, no more than a gentle 10- minute stroll from Lytham Town Centre and the railway station. The main building is impressive with a huge new gymnasium & sports centre complex dominating the pitch. This also has a raised walkway in front which provides hard standing, in a slightly elevated position, in front of the dressing rooms and bar/café area, albeit around 10 yards back. The ground has a much more enclosed feel than the old one. Both touchlines are "taped" off, with dug outs on the far side from the main building. One end is very tightly fenced in whilst the other affords a pleasant tree backed route to the other side of the pitch. Hot drinks, beer and snacks were available all evening from the plush bar overlooking the pitch.

LSA have reintroduced a match programme this season after a number of barren years and for a donation to genial Chairman & Secretary Geoff Mackay you get a quite superb 12-page issue, complete with full colour cover and all the essential information included. They appear to issue for all home games and I have little doubt that one will be available for the last home game of the season on Thursday 5th May, against Crooklands (6-45ko).

Before tonight's game LSA needed 5 points from their remaining 3 fixtures to ensure promotion to the West Lancs Premier Division. A comprehensive and well deserved 4-0 win against an at times over-aggressive Poulton Town side means they need either 1 win or two draws from their final two games. The attendance grew gradually throughout the evening and peaked at 40 in the 2nd half. From a neutral perspective it would be good to have the game next Thursday having something riding on it, although I suspect Chairman Geoff may disagree!

One point of note is that visitors Poulton Town have been issuing all season and intend to carry on next year. Known programme issuers in the league this season have been: Fleetwood Hesketh, Burnley United, Charnock Richard, Fulwood Amateurs, Euxton Villa, Lytham St Annes, Poulton Town, Bootle, Norcross & Warbreck, Croston SC & Rivington. Others known to have been fairly regular in recent years but I can't confirm for 2004/5 include: Turton, Freckleton, Hesketh Bank, Furness Rovers, Millom, BAC/EE Preston, Blackrod Town & Furness Cavaliers

Any additions to definite issuers would be welcome.

03/20