

26/12/05 TT No.142: Mike Latham - Boston Town (United Counties League Prem Division)

Fri 23 Dec 2005, United Counties League Eagle Bitter Premiership: Boston Town 1-2 Stewarts & Lloyds, Corby. Attendance: 60est; Admission: £3.50; 44pp programme: 50p; FGIF Rating: 4*.

First impressions are often the lasting ones and that was certainly the case at Boston Town. Arriving an hour before the 7.45 kick-off time after a long journey from Lancashire the spirits lifted with the sight of the floodlights after the long drive down Tattershall Road from Boston Marina. A husband and wife team were preparing the tea bar for action and were only too pleased to greet two weary travellers and give a potted history of the club which they had been associated with since its formation in 1964.

Known now as the Poachers, though formerly as FC, the history of the club is set out in a highly readable style in the recently published 40-year history, 'Come Sit with Us,' written by Simon Ashberry. On sale at the superbly stocked club shop for £10 it is an excellent effort. If you are a programme collector then you will need at least half-an-hour to examine the varied stock.

The Tattershall Road ground, once surrounded by fields but now by housing, boasts a superb playing area courtesy of long serving groundsman Nobby Croston. There is a large car park and the club house is situated behind the nearside goal where the dressing rooms and tea bar are also located. Along the far side is a covered standing area with some seats in the middle section and there is also a covered stand behind the far goal with some curious looking hard wooden levels to stand or sit. The other side, where the dug-outs are located is uncovered with a pleasant group of trees lined up behind to add shelter to what can be a very cold ground when the winds are whipping up from the fens.

Admission was only £3.50; a well written 44-page programme was a bargain at 50p and the tea bar was superb. A really friendly club, clearly with a group of stalwart supporters, Boston Town might soon be locating to the far side of town in a dual arrangement with their hard-up neighbours Boston United, though there are apparently planning hold-ups. If they do it will be sad to say good-bye to such a lovely friendly ground full of character.

As for the game, second placed Town were in for an upset though their opponents are apparently one of their bogey clubs. The referee was busy throughout a keenly contested game, handing out at least ten yellow cards and sending-off Town defender Kris Jones in the 33rd minute for a second yellow after a wild tackle. By then the visitors had recovered from conceding an early goal from a free-kick to score twice in four minutes and despite numerous chances the score-line then remained unaltered.

Though a good walk from Boston town centre the ground is well worth finding and Andy's Fish & Chip shop along the way comes highly recommended. A terrific way to spend a Friday evening.

04/20