

**13/02/06 TT No.177: Mick Burt - Lyndhurst (Hampshire League)**

Saturday 11 February - Hampshire League "2004"; LYNDHURST (1) 2 UPHAM (1) 2;  
Attendance: 27; Prog issued - 16 pages 50p.

Along with ten other travellers I ventured to the capital of the New Forest on Saturday to watch Lyndhurst entertain league leaders Upham. A cracking game resulted with the high scoring visitors taking the lead with a blockbuster of a free kick before the prolific Vinny Fyfield restored parity with a deft lob on the run. Upham restored their lead with a flying header ten minutes into the second half but again they were soon pegged back by a lively home side. Play switched from end to end thereafter but there was no more score and a richly entertaining, open game of football finished all square at two apiece which was just about right. The game was played in a fine spirit and was very well refereed.

The Wellands Road ground is easy to find being very central to the town, and it was quite a pleasant surprise I can tell you. Enclosed with a car park, a fully railed-off pitch with hard standing on the side adjacent to the car park, dugouts on the same side, and a tea room which was on the go from a very early hour and you have an excellent set up for this level. Throw in the fascinating memorabilia that adorns the walls of the tea room (Lyndhurst are the second oldest club in Hampshire behind Fordingbridge Turks) and a newsy 16-page programme (the first issue for some ten years) and you have utopia. A visit to this well-run club is highly recommended.

I was speaking to one of the Upham committee who told me it was unlikely that they would ever return to their village ground as the pitch is too small for senior football. The Reserve and 'A' teams still play there but since the formation of the re-born Hampshire League the first team have been "in exile" at the Worthies Sports & Social Club in Kings Worthy some six miles away. They do not issue programmes and I got the impression that such a venture at present is unlikely but you never know...

04/20