

TT No.209: Dean McClean - Saturday 1st April 2006 - **Worcester City** 2-2 Alfreton Town - Conference North; Admission: £5 (student); 32pp Programme: £2; Attendance 860; FGIF Match Rating: 1*.

On a fine spring Saturday morning the decision was made to visit St. George's Lane, the home of Worcester City. And what an inspired choice it proved be. The ground is a wonderfully atmospheric and traditional venue dominated by a large Grandstand. With the rest of the ground being terraced as well as a barrel shaped roof stand on the far side, St. George's Lane has many great vantage points from where to watch the action.

One of the main reasons for my choice was the fact Worcester are leaving their ground in the future, although on talking to a friendly gentleman in the club house I was informed of problems between the club and the building company, mainly to do with the price of the land.

The ground is best found by J6 off the M6 and picking up the A449 Worcester By-Pass, simply follow the signs into Worcester until you reach a T-Junction at the A38, turn left here and St. George's Lane is the 3rd turning on the left.

Undoubtedly the most famous result in the club's history was in 1959 when they knocked Liverpool out of the FA Cup, the record attendance for the ground is 17042 v Sheffield United in the FA Cup 4th round-24/01/59.

As for the match itself it was a very poor game played in blustery conditions, with the ball spending the majority of the match in the air or out of the ground. Alfreton took the lead in the most bizarre circumstances, a clash of heads involving Alfreton player/manager Gary Mills resulted in a Worcester defender picking the ball up in the area in order for treatment to be received, amazingly a penalty was given by the referee which was coolly tucked away by Bentley. To their credit Worcester continued to take the game to the visitors and twice came from behind with player/manager and ex-Carlisle striker Andy Preece scoring a late equalizer for City.

The programme was a 32page glossy effort professionally produced, and to be fair wasn't a typical, 'non-league' production. The tea bar was a franchise van selling the usual Burgers/Chips/Tea and Coffee, also positioned on the terrace was an ice-cream van which was doing a roaring trade on a warm spring afternoon. All in all, Worcester City is a friendly and comfortable environment in which to watch football, with many young children dotted around the ground. A trip to Worcester is very much recommended and it will be a shame when the ground is eventually flattened to make way for 'Town Houses'. St. George's Lane is definitely a crown jewel in non-league football.