

TT No.218: *Dean McClean* - Saturday 15th April 2006. Northern Counties East: **Arnold Town** 1-1 Armthorpe Welfare. Att: 150: Admission: £5; Programme 64pp; £1. FGIF Match Rating: 2*.

After being informed on numerous occasions Arnold Town is an atmospheric ground worth visiting, the decision was made to leave the "beaten track" of the Central Midlands Football Bonanza and take in a game at Gedling Road. Another reason for my visit was the fact Arnold will be leaving their ground in the near future, so this was designated as a "must do" along with recent travels to FGR and Worcester.

I was gratefully dropped off at King George V Ground by my fellow traveller around 2-30pm. The ground was relatively easy to find as he had been before. A warm welcome was received on arrival by the gateman, who cheerfully handed me a fantastic, huge programme. Contained in the sixty-four pages was a mountain of stats, facts and information to keep this traveller occupied at half-time and well beyond. Credit must go to programme editor Paul Stanley for producing one of the best efforts I have ever encountered.

Upon entering the ground there is a covered terrace on the far side, which is fronted by the respective dug-outs. Behind the bottom goal is an excellent seated stand, which runs the entire length of the touchline and provides views very close to the action. Behind the top goal is where Arnold Cricket Club play. A superb tea-bar, serving a good range of pies, peas, chips, tea, coffee and confectionary was staffed by two cheery ladies who were more than happy to serve this hungry traveller.

Since the club's inception a large number of honours have been won; including NCEL Premier/First Division, Central Midlands League and Notts Senior Cup. The club have reached The FA Cup 1st Round Proper on two occasions, hosting FL clubs Bristol Rovers and Port Vale respectively. Also, in 2002 Conference club Scarborough were hosted in front of nearly 900 at Gedling Road.

A rather drab game ensued, with neither team deserving of victory. The visitors having only a solitary shot on target to show for their efforts. Arnold took the lead on 9 minutes in bizarre circumstances; an attempted clearance on the edge of the Armthorpe penalty area was smashed into an attacking player. The resulting deflection lifting the ball over the stranded 'keeper. The most pleasing aspect of my visit was the exemplary behaviour displayed by both sets of players and managers. Standing close to the Armthorpe dug-out for nearly ten minutes, I didn't hear a single profanity uttered from their manager or assistant. This was in stark contrast to my fellow traveller who also visited a NCEL venue today.

I really enjoyed an excellent afternoon at Arnold Town Football Club and I would thoroughly recommend a visit here to any fellow traveller.

