

**TT No.220: Mike Latham** - Sat 15 Apr 2006. Northern Counties East League: **Gedling Town 2-1 Tadcaster Albion**. Attendance: 90est; Admission: £3.50; 36pp programme: £1; FGIF Match Rating: 2\*.

Gedling Town's Riverside ground is an idyllic location, next to the River Trent on the edge of the Stoke Bardolph estate. The Ferry Boat inn next door to the ground is a pleasant place for a pre-match pint and a good chance to look across to some beautiful scenery- on a sunny April day the place looked at its best. Nottingham Racecourse at Colwick is a couple of miles or so downstream.

The ground is a couple of miles outside Gedling and is reached by car down Stoke Lane, passing Carlton Town's ground along the way. There is a small club car park and more spaces can be found on the public car park opposite.

With this being a second v fourth game there was plenty at stake with both sides still in with a realistic chance of the title. Gedling play leaders Carlton in the final game of the season- that may not be one for the faint-hearted.

The Riverside Ground must be located in one of the most rural locations imaginable and the football club have obviously worked hard to build up the facilities. At the entrance end there are the dressing rooms, club offices and tea bar and two small seated stands, with two rows of blue seats in a slightly elevated position, are separated by a small covered standing area that straddles the halfway line. The dug-outs are positioned in front of this standing area. The rest of the ground is flat standing. Everything is maintained to a high standard and the playing pitch was flat, well grassed and in good condition.

With stakes so high there was a great deal of tension in the game and it was not a fast flowing or particularly engaging spectacle. It was one of the worst games I have seen this season for bad language of the players- some of it vile and repulsive. Oaths and obscenities rung around the ground, made worse by the quiet rural idyll of the surroundings.

The programme curiously had a photo of Bob Shankly on its cover with his infamous quote that "Some people think football is a matter of life and death- I can assure them it is much more serious than that." His words seemed to have been taken too literally by one or two supporters and players. Unstapled and with 32 pages, (two of which were blank, as Tadcaster did not appear to have supplied pen pictures), the tables and form guide had not been updated since 18 March, rendering them useless. 'Upcoming' fixtures for the last two weeks in February took up one page.

With chances at a premium Gedling took the lead with a header from one of their defenders from a corner on the hour-mark. Tadcaster equalised five minutes from time only for the home side to steal the points with another header deep into injury time. All three goals were scored by defenders.

