

04/09/05 TT No.37: Mike Latham - Evesham (Southern League)

Sat 3 Sep 2005, Southern League Premier Division; Evesham Town 2-0 Aylesbury United (att. - 193)

Common Road, Evesham is another ground playing out its final days before the Evesham club move to a proposed new ground. There is talk the club could even vacate the site by Jan 2006 and then ground-share at Worcester City.

Far from the easiest ground to find, Common Road is reached by turning up the side of Barclays Bank in the town centre and then following a circuitous route than ends in Common Road, turning right into the ground before a railway bridge.

There was plenty of parking and the officials on the gate were very welcoming. An excellent 44-page programme sold for a bargain £1.20 and had plenty of reading material.

There is a club house, tea bar and club shop behind the goal at the entrance to the ground and a small cover at this end. The only other cover is provided in the small main stand, which Evesham brought with them from their former ground at Crown Meadow in 1968, with the rest of the ground open standing. A large embankment runs up the railway line that lies behind the far side, opposite the main stand, but this is out of bounds.

On a hot and sunny afternoon Common Road was a pleasant place to watch football but the quality of the game failed to match the surroundings. Evesham won with two goals from their striker Richard Ball, whose second goal was a memorable first-time screamer that flew into the net past the stranded visiting goalkeeper.

If you have not visited Common Road the advice is to do so while you can, especially if the weather is set fair.

Match rating: 1*.

03/20