

06/09/05 TT No.40: Mike Latham - Curzon Ashton (NWCL1) - new ground

Mon 5 Sep 2005, NWCL D1 Curzon Ashton 4-1 Atherton Collieries (att. - 152)

Curzon Ashton's new ground looked highly impressive in the twilight of a hot late summer's evening and the first impressions were found to be the right ones. As darkness fell and the impressive floodlights illuminated the ground it was a world away from their old National Park venue which they vacated just over a year ago.

Built with the assistance of Tameside MBC and the Football Foundation, the Tameside Stadium is located off Richmond Street which runs from the town centre of Ashton-u-Lyne, just 5 minutes off the M60 motorway. After passing Ashton Cricket Club on the left the stadium can be seen further down the street on the left-hand side. Despite its close proximity to the town centre it is in a semi-rural location with a farm behind the far goal. The whole complex has been developed impressively and an athletics arena and all-weather floodlit football pitches are also on site. There is plenty of parking.

£5 secured admission to the stadium which has a neat seated stand on one side and an elevated terrace with cover on the far side and uncovered shallow terraces behind both goals. With social facilities behind the seats in the main stand the ground is very well equipped and should easily comply with Conference grading requirements. The development of Ashton Moss continues apace with a large retail and business park sprouting up a few hundred yards away.

A significant number of groundhoppers saw an entertaining game with Curzon winning 4-1 and displaying some clinical finishing at times. But the visitors, smarting from an 8-0 home defeat three days earlier, contributed fully towards a game that always held the interest. The playing pitch was flat and well grassed with occasional bare patches and the club clearly has a facility that will be the envy of many of their neighbours.

To complete the evening Curzon Ashton's informative 60-page programme is one of the best around the circuit and a bargain at £1.20 while the tea bar sold hot drinks, pie and peas and a range of delicious pasties. A visit to the Tameside Stadium comes highly recommended. Match rating: 4.