

09/09/05 TT No.43: Mike Latham - Maltby Main (NCELP)

Wed 7 Sep 2005, NCEL Premier Division; Maltby Main 1-1 Pickering Town (att.- 60)

Maltby is an old colliery town in South Yorkshire situated just off J1 of the M18 motorway with Rotherham and Doncaster in close proximity. The huge welfare ground hosts cricket and football and the two sports share a common pavilion- an impressive, newly constructed building which stands behind one corner flag of the enclosed football ground.

Surrounded by a housing estate and about half-a-mile from the main crossroads in the centre of Maltby, the football ground is located off the quaintly named Muglet Lane.

Kerry Miller's fantastic book, *The History of Non-League Football Grounds*, shows just a small stand on the photo of the Maltby ground but since the book was published a small covered standing area has been added alongside. The pitch was surrounded by a neat post and rail fence and the floodlights were excellent. Apart from the two covered areas the rest of the ground is flat standing though all the surrounds have been concreted and the ground is maintained to a good standard.

The original football club was founded in 1916 as Maltby Main FC (the local colliery) and disbanded in 1965. Maltby Miners Welfare FC was formed in 1970 as a football section of the Miners Welfare. There was a split from the welfare club in 1996 and the club name was changed to Maltby Main FC, although the club continues to play at the Welfare ground.

The magnificent dressing room and hospitality rooms cost a reported quarter-of-a-million pounds and were constructed in 2000. Included in this structure is an excellent small tea bar that serves hot and cold drinks, beef burgers and pie and peas. A notice at the tea bar states that any profits are used towards the children of the neighbouring housing estate.

£5 secured admission and an excellent 28-page programme, full of interesting reading material, sold for £1. This contained an excellent and informative article on the club's history as well as plenty of information on the visitors and on league news.

On a warm dry evening the teams played out an entertaining 1-1 draw in a game that was played in an excellent spirit and was well refereed. Several travellers were in attendance, including one who had made the journey from Kent. Club officials were very friendly and helped contribute to a good evening out. The welfare club is situated opposite the ground and was also welcoming. Match Rating: 3*.