

**03/11/05 TT No.96: Mike Latham - Hall Road Rangers (NCEL1)**

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Tues 1 Nov 2005, East Riding Senior Cup 2nd round, Hall Road Rangers 0-2 North Ferriby United (att. -120)

Hall Road Rangers currently prop up the first division of the NCEL with only one point from nine league games but they gave a good account of themselves against the leaders of the Unibond Premier League.

As so often happens when a side is struggling, decisions often fail to go their way. So, it proved as, after holding their own for the first 20 minutes, Rangers conceded a controversial goal, their defence stopping after an upraised flag from the linesman for offside that was ignored by the referee and visiting striker. The goal was allowed to stand and a well-worked second before half-time saw North Ferriby safely through.

Situated in the village of Dunswell, about eleven miles from the Humber Bridge between Hull and Beverley, Dene Park is located in semi-rural surroundings with several football pitches and a large club house. There is plenty of parking and £4 admission was good value for an entertaining game played in good spirit. A 20-page programme, with full colour cover and good information on the visitors and up-to-date statistics was £1.

The main facilities to the ground are at the entrance behind the goal. Here is located a small stand with four rows of bench seating named the Ted Richardson Stand, tea bar and committee room. The tea bar was well frequented and served hot drinks from proper pot mugs, tasty hot dogs and pies and, typical of the club, was manned by cheerful staff. The rest of the ground is hard standing behind a neat blue and white post-and-rail perimeter fence. Behind the far goal are some mature trees which make the pitch less well-lit than the rest of the playing area which was illuminated by three posts of floodlights on either side.

The respective dug-outs were opposite one another on the halfway line and the pitch was well grassed and undulating in places and had obviously soaked up a considerable amount of recent rain.

A considerable number of North Ferriby supporters had made the 30-mile round-trip and helped swell the crowd to around the 120-mark. The home side belied their recent form with a determined display and never stopped trying to play constructive football and the evening in a pleasant setting was most enjoyable. Match rating: 3\*.