

TT No.113: *Dean McClean* - Sat 13th January 2007. West Lancashire League Div. 2: **Mill Hill St. Peter's** v Vickerstown CC; Res 2-4; Admission: Free; Programme: No; Att: 25; FGIF Match Rating: 4*.

Having been very fortunate to win tickets to the Blackburn Rovers v Arsenal match in a local newspaper competition, I was rather restricted in how far I could travel. I had to be at Ewood in time for my three-course meal, but there was no way I was passing up the opportunity of a double-header!

Mill Hill St. Peter's, located in the Mill Hill district of Blackburn, is a smashing little venue. For a ground at this level it has almost everything one would want in a football ground. Surrounded by trees, houses, a factory and the entrance hidden off a back street, it is a very secluded ground and very easy to miss. In fact, one fellow 'hopper from Blackburn didn't even realise there was a ground here!

Upon entering the ground, the small, but inviting social club is located to the right. Inside is a bar and Sky Sports TV, as well as a small tea-bar where tea and coffee can be purchased at very reasonable prices. The pitch is railed off $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way around the perimeter and has a small, adequate covered terrace which was heavily populated as imposing looking dark clouds loomed large above, threatening to explode at any time. The pitch is in excellent condition and postponements are rare here. A very welcoming sign given the amount of torture suffered recently battling against the weather. My fellow 'hopper relayed a tale of horror, as he headed South last week only to be confronted by the appalling weather and returned home having not seen a match. With this in mind he is now sticking to "local matches only" until the monsoon season ends.

Reaching the ground is easily done by public transport or car. Mill Hill station is only a five-minute walk. Turn left out of the station and you are on Queen Victoria Street, continue along for around 300 yards and the entrance to the ground is on your right opposite the Mill Hill Hotel PH. If travelling by car, exit the M65 at J3 (Blackburn West). Follow the A674 towards Blackburn (Preston Old Road). When reaching the cross-roads with Buncer Lane to your left and Spring Lane, turn right onto the latter and turn right onto Mill Hill Bridge St, then left onto Queen Vic St.

On the programme front it is unlikely Mill Hill have ever issued or are ever likely to unless for a big Cup match.

Ground-hoppers may be interested to know that behind Mill Hill SP's is Griffin Park, home of Mill Hill, an entirely separate club who compete in the East Lancashire League. This is worth a quick look.

Today's visitors to Blackburn were West Lancs League new boys, Vickerstown CC from Walney Island nr. Barrow. Last season's Furness Premier League Champions have had an interesting season to say the least. Before today's match they were rock-bottom of the table despite not having lost a match! Has that ever been known

halfway through a season? Due to a superb run in the Lancashire Amateur Cup, that has seen them reach the Semi-Finals, they are long way behind on their fixtures and with a record of P8 W3 D5, the league table has taken a rather distorted look.

Vickerstown promptly made a mockery of their position in the table as they stormed in to 3-0 lead by half-time, playing some excellent football at times and scoring some well-worked goals. Mill Hill threatened a comeback as they pulled a goal back early in the 2nd half, but the visitors soon restored their 3-goal lead, before Mill Hill once again reduced the deficit.

The game over by 3:45, I was able to reach Ewood Park just in time for the tomato soup.

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