

TT No.145: *Dean McClean* - Saturday 10th February 2007. West Lancs League Div. 1: **Furness Rovers** v Poulton Town; Res: 1-3; Admission: Free; no programme; Att: 18; FGIF Match Rating: 3*.

As the recent adverse weather played havoc with almost all non-league fixtures, with many leagues suffering blanket postponements, it was quite a relief to get a game in at all, and very satisfying to get a new ground. A Friday evening call to my intended destination of St. Ives revealed the game was very unlikely to take place. With that in mind it was decided to ring round locally on Saturday morning.

Looking at the weather forecast, the Barrow region seemed to have escaped the worst of the weather, so a quick call to Barrow revealed their game was definitely on. So, with Barrow v Alfreton as a back-up, if all else failed, we headed there.

Coincidentally Furness Rovers' Wilkie Road ground is situated within a stone's throw of Barrow's ground. It is rather basic and the views are hardly inspiring but if you are going to complete the West Lancs League, it's this sort of sacrifice, one needs to make. The ground is railed off along both touchlines and has a small shelter near to the entrance. There are no social club facilities but the Sports Bar mainly used by Barrow is handily placed for pre-and post-match refreshments. An ASDA 24 is also located behind the ground for hungry groundhoppers.

Today's visitors, Poulton Town are having a very good season and are very much in contention for promotion to the Premier Division. Whilst the home team are struggling at the wrong end of the table. A generally easy win for Poulton was helped by them taking the lead in the very first minute. Two more goals were added either side of half-time, and although Furness did manage a consolation, Poulton cruised to victory in difficult conditions to maintain their push for promotion.

There were no programmes and it's unlikely Furness have ever issued. Programmes in the West Lancs League are few and far between. You can get one at the odd Premier Division club but they are very rare below that level.