

TT No.180: *Dean McClean* - Saturday 17th March 2007. West Lancashire League Premier Division; **Dalton United** v Fulwood Amateurs; Res: 5-1; Admission: Free; 20pp Programme 50p; Att: 45; FGIF Match Rating: 3*.

With a cluster of West Lancs League teams still to “tick-off” in and around the Furness peninsular, this was an ideal opportunity to visit Dalton-in-Furness, and more precisely, Dalton United FC.

Located in the quaint town of Dalton around 4 miles NE of neighbouring Barrow, Dalton United FC is typical friendly small-town club to visit. As with many teams in this league, Dalton are run by a small dedicated band of local volunteers, who provide an invaluable service to their local team. The majority of the players too are local to the area and the whole club gives off a community-based feel.

The Furness region is not as inaccessible as you might consider, as the area is easily reached via the fast improving A590 from the M6. Journey times from Preston are generally only an hour when the roads are clear.

Railway Meadow, Dalton’s home, is a typical West Lancs League venue; railed off with a small amount of hard standing and enough shelter for the 40 or so regulars. This ground is best appreciated on a calm and pleasant day. Unfortunately, today was very miserable and persistent rain, accompanied with a near gale force wind made for uncomfortable viewing. An overhang from the clubhouse provides the only shelter and this was heavily populated by locals and ground-hoppers alike.

After a slow start to the season, Dalton’s results have improved of late and they look to be safe from relegation. Both these teams have had no problem in finding the net this season, and they have both out-scored champions and current leaders, Kirkham & Wesham. Obviously, keeping them out has been the problem. An entertaining game looked on the cards and this one did not disappoint. Despite the obscene weather and a boggy pitch, both teams played some excellent football in very testing conditions and the score easily could have been 6-6. In the end we only saw 6 goals which isn’t bad for 50p.

Pie connoisseurs (of which I am one) should note that Dalton acquire their pies from the superb Mabel’s Bakery in Askam, and they are not to be missed. Askam United too, serve these wonderful pies!