

**TT No.234: Dean McClean** - Tuesday 24th April 2007. West Lancashire League Division One: **Furness Cavaliers** v Askam United; Res: 0-2; Att: 30; no admission/programme; FGIF Match Rating: 3\*.

During the season I have enjoyed my West Lancs League trips and this one to the outskirts of Barrow was no different. In fact, when I tick off the remaining four grounds I have yet to do in this league I will be happy yet sad that I won't have any more friendly clubs to visit in the future.

After joining the league five seasons ago it would be safe to say Cavs haven't exactly made a stunning impact on the field-10th place being their highest so far. But maybe their fortunes will soon turn around as they have the Furness Senior Cup against all conquering local rivals Vickerstown to look forward too, along with future ground improvements starting to take shape. With money from the National lottery, Cavs plan to upgrade their current antiquated clubhouse and changing rooms, whilst hard working club officials and players have been busy with various fund raising initiatives, as they attempt raise money for the club to build another full size adult pitch, two junior pitches, improvements to the current first team's pitch, along with other much needed work to improve the ground up to a reasonable standard. The club officials I spoke to were friendly and offered a warm welcome to this traveller, so I personally wish them the best in their hard work.

Furness Cavs are one of the few teams in this league to have a website, and one of even less to have an excellent one. Simply designed and informative, it tells the viewer everything they need to know, from ground directions-to results and fixtures-to future plans, it's all covered on the site.

The journey along the A590 from Lancashire was far from stress free, as the never-ending glut of road "improvements" and diversions made for a longer journey than planned. The best, and most scenic, route to Cavs is via the A5087 coastal route to Barrow. The wonderful sights of Morecambe Bay and beyond were to be savoured, even on a dreary overcast evening. When you reach the village of Rampside, turn right at the roundabout toward Barrow and the ground is on your right after about one mile, just before the large sign welcoming you to Barrow.

On a dark, overcast evening, interrupted with squally showers, the advertised kick-off time was changed from 6:45pm to "whenever you're ready, lads" which was around 6:24pm in this instance. So just as no penalties to visiting teams at Old Trafford is the new rule, so is kicking-off 21 minutes early! Thankfully we were at the ground in good time and so rather welcomed the unexpected earlier start and to be fair it was a dark evening.

Two teams in mid-table fought out a typically close mid-table encounter, as the visitors took the points with two goals in the first half. And despite dominating the second half, Cavs did everything but score in an entertaining game that always held the attention.

