

TT No.50: Andrew Gallon - 24 October 2006; Wakefield FC v Bridlington Town; UniBond NPL Division One; Result: 3-0; Att: 115; Admission: £7 includes decent full-colour programme (extra copies £1).

A potentially interesting basement battle provided an opportunity to check out the latest home of the new incarnation of the old Emley club following their move from Belle Vue. Wakefield FC have gone from sharing with a rugby league club (Wakefield Trinity Wildcats) to playing on the ground of a defunct rugby union outfit (Wakefield). And very pleasant College Grove is, too (apart from the sloping, bumpy pitch, which is far better suited to rugby of either code than football).

Located in one of the more genteel parts of this rather bleak town, the ground consists of an all-seater stand - still decked out in the rugby union club's colours of amber and black - running between the penalty areas, with open terracing on each side. The rest of the ground is open hard standing, though there is a small area of polythene-topped cover behind the QEGS end goal. Plenty of free parking within the perimeter of grounds which are also home to Wakefield's thriving hockey club. No souvenir shop but items can be bought via the club website. Lapel badges are, I gather, about five weeks away. Curiously, if you need a new hockey stick, there is a well-stocked shop in the car park selling these.

Unfortunately, the match was much less competitive than expected as Wakefield continued their revival with a third straight victory. Brid, other than hitting the inside of a post off a freakish deflection in the last minute, rarely threatened and the hosts won at a canter with goals from Marc Townsend (a thumping header), Brighton Mugadza (a cross keeper Nick Tudor made a real pig's ear of) and Demi Kyriacou (a delicious chip).

The attendance of 115 was better than Wakefield have been getting of late but whether they will be able to survive (unlike the rugby union club) in a community dominated by rugby league remains to be seen. And it's just not Emley, is it?

Match rating: two stars (poor).

06/20