

**TT No.65: *Mike Latham*** - Sat 11 Nov 2006: Southern League Midland Division: Cinderford Town 0-0 Dunstable Town. Attendance: 106; Admission: £6; 44pp programme: £1; FGIF Match Rating: 2\*.

'Get south of Birmingham by 1pm and the world is your lobster,' is the famous phrase of a ground-hopping friend of mine.

Following his oft-quoted dictum, the world opened up at 1pm despite an afternoon of high winds and driving rain. The decision was taken to leave J11 of the M5 at Gloucester and head via the ring road to the heart of the Forest of Dean.

Cinderford Town's Causeway Ground is located close to the centre of town on an elevated position that seems to catch the brunt of the prevailing elements. The views en route from Gloucester are spectacular and Cinderford, located at the top of the hill, affords the most magnificent of them looking across the Severn.

Cinderford had achieved a stunning 7-1 victory at leaders Bromsgrove Rovers the week before- a case of 'five goals wasted' according to my new found friend on the terraces of the Causeway Ground.

His words proved prophetic as two well organised teams fought out a 0-0 draw on a cloying surface, the conditions made worse by a swirling wind.

The Causeway Ground is one to savour. Positioned within a huge housing estate with a large club car park able to accommodate the spectators that follow the Town by car, the ground is seemingly hewn out of a hillside and the attempts to level the playing surface in recent years are evident by the mounds of earth that form natural grass banks on two sides of the ground.

The main spectator facilities are provided at the entrance side with a small main stand flanked by two small standing areas, one of which provided welcome shelter from the strong winds, the other seemingly affording a worm's eye view of events.

The dressing rooms and club house, together with a decent snack bar, are also located at this side, though a level lower than the pitch. The programme was a modest £1 and contained some entertaining reading matter while the two line-ups were pinned up near the main stand entrance- so full marks for that.

The local rugby union club were entertaining near neighbours Lydney in a league match nearby and the full-throated encouragements of the locals drifted up to the Causeway Ground. Though this game was always seemingly destined to end 0-0 the visit to the Forest of Dean had been a rewarding one.