

**TT No.25: Bob Davies** - Tues 2nd September 2008; **Langford** v Welwyn Garden City; SSML Premier Division; Result: 3-1; Attendance: 56; Admission: £5; Programme: 28pp, w/a; Tea: 50p.

This wasn't my first or second choice for this particular evening but F.A. Cup replays had forced me to pick another game. A game at my old stamping ground beckoned.

The Langford ground is situated between Henlow and Langford along the B6001. This road can be accessed from the A507 from the A1 right at the A6001 and following the road through Henlow the ground is on the left just after leaving the village. Alternately you can leave the A1 at the Langford turn driving along the road passing the water tower and into the village of Langford, continue until you reach The Boot pub on your left and then turn left at the roundabout. The ground will be on the right in this case. When entering the ground there is plenty of car parking available even for the late comers and the club have a plentiful supply of programmes at the gate.

The Langford pitch looked immaculate and the 100 plus seated-stand looked to be the best bet for watching the game from. The club house serves not only alcoholic beverages but houses the refreshment hatch from which tea, coffee and burgers (recommended) can be obtained and luckily the rain abated for the walk from the stand!

The match day programme has a colourful advertising shell that houses eight pages that were fully up to date with a report from the previous Saturday and current fixtures and League tables.

Langford started the evening leading the SSML Premier Division with four straight wins. Welwyn Garden City on the other hand were struggling at the lower end of the table with one win in their first five games and couple of heavy home defeats in the previous two games wouldn't have helped their confidence. An influx of recent signings for the visitors proved to be the making of an entertaining game. The first half saw an open flowing game with only the finishing of both sides proving frustrating. As the half went on the rain came down and with some spectacular thunder and lightning mirroring the efforts on the pitch. The weather indeed had a lot to do with the opening goal as Langford took the lead in final minute of the first half. Robert Groves firing in a low free kick that skimmed of the wet surface in front of the goal keeper who failed to gather it. Gary Walker was on hand to bury the loose ball in the back of the net.

The second proved to be just as cut and thrust as the first with the visitors equalising within three minutes of the restart as the impressive Chris Haslam headed home a Scott McGuinness cross. More end to end play and Langford regained the lead on 62 minutes when Lee Pateman forced home Robert Groves corner.

Groves himself then scored a spectacular third with ten minutes left to keep the Reds at the top of the table.

Langford F.C. are celebrating their Centenary this season. Club president Jim Broadbridge has spent many, many hours researching the history of the club. The result has been the publication of the book entitled "A book of Two Halves". This 100-page publication is a fascinating insight into the history of Langford FC with many photographs of previous teams and personalities that have been with the club. Such as been the success of Jim's efforts in producing this limited edition that there are only a third of the copies printed left available. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, they are available at the club on a match day or you can contact Jim directly by phone on 01462 701127. If you would prefer to write for a copy then Jim's address is: 25 Cambridge Way; Langford; SG18 9SG. The cost of the book is £6 plus postage.

06/20