

TT No.27: Mike Latham - Wednesday 3 September 2008: East Lancashire League Division Two. **Burnley Belvedere** v Bacup Cricket Club; Result: 1-5; Attendance: 20 (h/c); No admission or programme.

Rain of a tropical intensity had lashed Lancashire during the day and chances of finding a match that had survived the onslaught appeared slim as a number of telephone calls brought the same response- match postponed.

Fortunately, though, Burnley Belvedere's ground is excellently drained and this game went ahead on a well grassed pitch that had remarkably survived the worst of the rain.

Situated in the Reedley area of Burnley, on the Colne Road out of the town, the Belvedere club is hugely impressive.

Home to the cricket club, who are now in the second tier of the Ribblesdale League after a string of division one titles in the 1970s, and the town's rugby union club the complex is an impressive one in a leafy and well-heeled part of town, found by a well signposted drive up by the side of the Oaks Hotel, a renovated Victorian mansion.

Belvedere's first team play in the West Lancashire league and their reserve team in the more, humble surrounds of the East Lancashire League. Their pitch, enclosed by a stout post and rail fence and with dug-outs on either side occupies an elevated position above the car park of the Belvedere and Calder Vale club house, sideways to the cricket field, with the main rugby pitch further up the hill.

The pitch is in excellent condition and has easily survived the downpours though the goalmouths and corner areas are soggy. Controlled by an undemonstrative but firm official the game was well-fought though the visitors were much the better side, clinching a convincing victory with two late goals.

Occupying such a fine position and with stunning views across to distant hills a visit to Burnley Belvedere is highly recommended. Easy to find up the A682 Colne Road out of Burnley, it is also easily accessible from J12 of the M65 going towards Burnley through neighbouring Brierfield.