

## TT1011-10

**TT No. 10: Gyles Basey-Fisher** - Weds 21st July 2010; **Bideford** v Accrington Stanley; South West Cup - Joma Cup; Kick off: 8pm; Result: 2-5; Admission: £5.00; Programme: £2.00 (Covers all games); Attendance: 219.

It had been raining all day and I was slightly worried about this game arriving in Bideford, especially as they were hosting Blackpool v Kilmarnock the next day. That was All Ticket, so they wouldn't want to call it off, but I need not have worried as the pitch was in perfect condition.

The Sports Ground is completely walled in and gives the impression, from the outside at least, of an old League ground tempting you to look inside, even more so with the old-style floodlights standing proudly in each corner.

Paying my £5.00 which, along with my previous game Barnstable, represents great value for money considering you're watching Football League players. Your first impression is how big the arena is. There is a car park behind one goal; the far end houses a two story club house; the petite changing rooms are along one side; the raised main stand opposite, holding roughly 100 red seats, is a large area of cover where extra seats have been added into the centre section; there are two areas of terracing at each end. Everything is set back from the pitch and the two ends are curved rather like an Athletics track though the view standing on the sides is no different to any other ground.

The game starts with an early Accrington goal. Bideford were not overwhelmed by their Football League opponents and were rewarded with a deflected long-range effort to equalise. The game flowed end to end and 1-1 was a fair half time score. Accrington again nicked an early goal in the second half and didn't increase their lead until the 66th minute; Bideford still wouldn't give up and pulled a goal back before Accrington's fitness began to show in the final 10 minutes.

In summary, for anyone who thinks pre-season is a waste of time I can thoroughly recommend this tournament; proper substitutions, four officials, official team sheets, a programme and the chance to do six grounds in a week while watching a high standard of football. Yes, only three of the clubs whose grounds are used are participating, but if that's not a problem then this is a great way of picking off some grounds in a difficult to access part of Devon.

07/20