

TT No. 135: Bob Davies - Sat 11th December 2010; **Lemsford** (0) 2, Letchworth Garden City Eagles (2) 3; Herts County League - Premier Division; Admission/Programme £2 (incl. a free cup of tea!); Attendance: 8.

Lemsford FC are one of Hertfordshire's oldest clubs and have been in existence for over a hundred years.

Directions to Welwyn Playing Fields from the HSCL website: From A1(M) South Leave the A1(M) at Junction 6 (A1000/ Welwyn). Turn left at the slip road roundabout signposted towards Stanborough. In about 200 yards turn right into London Road just past the BP garage. Ottway Walk is on your left in about 400 yards, opposite The Steamer public house and just before the hill down into the village.

From A1(M) North Leave the A1(M) at Junction 6 (A1000/ Welwyn) then turn right at the slip road roundabout and go back under the A1(M). Almost immediately filter left, (just under the second bridge), into Welwyn village. Follow the road around the left- hand bend to a T-junction. Turn left up the hill and Ottway Walk will be on your right at the top of the hill.

The game was played at Welwyn Playing Fields, home to Lemsford FC since their promotion a few years back. The playing fields consist of a post and railed pitch that Lemsford use, this is separated from another football pitch by a cricket pitch fenced off with plastic fencing. Dressing rooms and refreshment facilities are housed in a very secure single storey building. There is no cover around the ground itself.

A twelve-page programme was available from the refreshment counter for £2, this price did include a complementary tea or coffee which I thought was a novel idea. The refreshments are served by the Chairman of Lemsford, Cliff Pickett, a friendly and jovial character who seemed to also be doing the majority of jobs around the place.

The pitch looked in very good condition considering the recent weather, allowing both sides to concentrate on the football. Lemsford are struggling at the basement of the division and every point is needed in their current plight. Visitors Letchworth GCE are maintaining a healthy pace at the top of the division after promotion last season. The match proved that despite their position Lemsford could match the visitors and will feel disappointed not to have taken any points from the game. After creating but not taking some good opportunities during the first half they went in 0-2 down but could consider themselves unfortunate. In the second period Lemsford pulled a goal back early and consistently began to trouble the Letchworth defence. An equaliser was well deserved but not content with that they went for the winner. Not to be I'm afraid as Letchworth scored a late winner on the break and held on for all three points. Good game to watch and if Lemsford

can produce this sort of performance more often then they will start picking up points and pull themselves away from the drop zone.

07/20