

TT No. 175: Bob Davies - Sat 12th February 2011; **Amphill Town** (0) 2, Wodson Park (3) 5; South Midlands League Div. 1; Att: 25; Admission; £4 (including 20-page programme); Tea: 70p, Cheese and tomato roll £1; Match rating: 3*.

Amphill, from the *Wiki*:

Amphill is a small town and civil parish in Bedfordshire, between Bedford and Luton, with a population of about 6000. A regular market has taken place on Thursdays for centuries following King Henry the III granting this right in 1242.

The name 'Amphill' is of Anglo-Saxon origin. The first settlement was called 'Aemethyll', which literally means either 'ant-heap' or 'ant infested hill'. In the Domesday Book, Amphill is referred to as 'Ammetelle', with the landholder in 1086 being Nigel de la Vast. Henry VIII was a frequent visitor to Amphill Castle, and it was there that Katherine of Aragon lived from 1531 until divorced in 1533.

Directions: Address - Woburn Street, Amphill, Bedford, Bedfordshire, MK45 2HX.

I travelled along A507 from the A1M, when approaching Amphill go over the roundabout that takes you into the town and continue on the A507. Turn right at the first roundabout and straight across two others. Amphill will be signposted as a right turn soon after (B530). Follow this road down past the rugby club on the right. The entrance to the football ground is on the left-hand side. There is a club car park but this is sometimes over-subscribed, parking is available along the road.

The ground itself is set in Amphill Park, a very sporting area with the cricket club situated next to the ground at the far end. Amphill and District Rugby Union F.C across the road near enough opposite the football club. There is also another football club by the rugby pitches with the "Home of Queensmen FC" sign and good-sized stand and dressing room complex. This owned by Queensmen FC who are a Sunday side playing in the Bedford and District Sunday League.

After watching Wodson Park's midweek defeat against London Lions I wasn't sure what to expect today. The first surprise was to see leading goal-scorer Anthony Anstead returning to his more familiar role between the sticks! The second was the sunshine, haven't seen that in a long time at a game! Always liked Amphill Town's ground with the stand and pathway that looks down on the pitch, a very picturesque venue within the park.

Wodson earned a 3-0 interval lead with Tyler Hatherley playing a more forward roll than in recent times. He relished the change and helped himself to a hat trick that included one from the penalty spot. The home pressured early after the break and quickly pulled a goal back through Ross Morrissey and shortly afterwards struck the underside of the bar. Wodson's game wasn't so intense as the first but they sealed a fine victory with two goals in a minute with eleven minutes remaining. Pete Sawyer scored the fourth after coming off the bench and Hatherley completed a very successful day claiming a fourth and Wodson's fifth. Amphill added a second

in the final minute from a corner, with Nick Shirley stealing in at the far post unmarked.

Unfortunately for both sets of players they had only cold showers to look forward to. The latest nationwide crime of stealing heater oil saw both the football and rugby clubs become the latest victims during Friday night - Saturday morning.

07/20