

TT No.161: Mike Latham - Friday 3 May 2013- Huddersfield & District Association Football League, **Groom Cup Final**; AFC Lindley 0-1 Honley (at **Lepton Highlanders FC**); Attendance: 140 (h/c); Admission: £2; FGIF match rating: 3*.

High on the hills above Huddersfield on the main road to Wakefield lies the village of Lepton; stone-built properties, woods and fields stretching far into the distance, sweeping views across to that omnipresent landmark Emley mast and a splendidly appointed sports club known as Lepton Highlanders.

It was here on another bright and breezy evening that the Huddersfield & District League staged the Groom Cup Final between Honley and AFC Lindley. What a fine occasion it was, but then I have grown to expect this kind of thing from a league that has really grown on me these past couple of seasons.

The Groom Cup is open to teams playing out-with the top two divisions in the League and this final pitted Honley, champions of Division 3 against AFC Lindley, who have run away with Division 4, having won all 21 of their league games so far.

I had seen Honley recently and knew they were a good footballing side who liked to build up from the back. They were pushed to the limit though, by a Lindley side that never gave up trying to play neat, constructive football themselves. The only goal of a really well contested game came after 32 minutes, a neat, low shot by the impressive Honley no11.

The game kicked-off at 5-30pm and league officials manned the car park to arrange parking and collect the £2 admission. What a great way to begin the Bank Holiday weekend this was. Around one hundred spectators were present by kick-off time with more arriving as the game progressed. At the same time a junior cricket game was also taking place on the adjoining pitch which was also well attended so the well-appointed Lepton club house was a hive of activity.

The main football pitch (there is also another pitch the other side of the cricket ground) is neatly enclosed by a white post and rail fence with dug-outs and serves Lepton well in the West Riding County Amateur League. It was a pleasure to attend a really fine sporting occasion that obviously meant a lot to many people. I watch a lot of football and I reckon the Huddersfield & District Association Football League sets many standards on and off the pitch that other leagues would do well to emulate.

04/20