

TT No. 165: Keith Aslan - Sat 11th May 2013; **Lyme Regis** v Perry Street; Perry Street League Premier; Kick-Off: 14.33; Result: 6-1; Admission: Free; Programme: Donation; Attendance: 25 - 22 home, 2 away & 1 neutral.

Lyme Regis is a delightful seaside town on what the tourist board have taken to calling Dorset's "Jurassic coast". Even on a wet and windy May day the place was buzzing with the narrow winding streets providing a stern test of the bus drivers art. This was where the film "The French Lieutenants Woman" was filmed and the year after its release visitor numbers doubled. Standing on the famous "Cob" you can see the village of West Bay a few miles down the coast which is anticipating a similar tourist bonanza after being the setting for the cult TV. drama "Broadchurch".

Getting to Lyme Regis for the carless is easy with Axminster being the railhead where, in a perfect but sadly uncommon example of integrated transport, the buses connect with the trains. There was also a bus to Chard, Ilminster and Taunton that also connects with trains and the buses connect with the buses. The return fare is a reasonable £3.90, although even more reasonable for most of the other people on the bus who didn't appear to pay anything!

Lyme Regis FC is a little way out of town, up on the cliffs, with sea views down one side and the Devon costal path above on the other. A very picturesque setting. The ground is called Fort Davey and behind the trees on the far touchline you can see the remains of the fort built to defend the coastline against a German invasion. I don't think Hitler was likely to have launched an attack here, his tanks would never have got through the traffic in the narrow streets of Lyme Regis. Behind the goal are the changing rooms and clubhouse, with rolls, hot and cold drinks, and Sky Sports. What better prelude to the game than stuffing my face with food whilst watching Chelsea beat Aston Villa. The clubhouse has an overhang from where you can watch the game which proved very useful in keeping dry and avoiding, as one weather forecast put it, torrential showers.

Lyme Regis have ended up second, their fourth consecutive top two finish. They did apply to the Dorset League who wouldn't accept them because their pitch was too small. Call me Mr. Naive but I always thought the FA had a minimum pitch size and that was that. Different leagues having different rules on pitch dimensions strikes me as just plain silly. I think Lyme Regis are better off staying where they are anyway with the Perry Street League requiring considerably less travelling.

This was a game of two halves (aren't they all?) with the teams going in at 1-1 at half time. The home side ran away with it in the second half and the longer the game went on, the more Perry Street players appeared to be thinking about their summer holidays. In the second half Perry Street were awarded a free kick just outside the box and uniquely they placed more attackers in the defensive wall than there were defenders. This was a tactic that was as innovative as it was

useless and whoever came up with that idea needs a good slapping with a coaching manual. A strange quirk was that for the second Saturday in succession I was at a game that lasted the correct 90 minutes, whereas no game I had seen in the previous 10 months of the season came close to being correctly timed. To suggest this referee didn't add on any spurious time because he wanted to get home to watch the FA Cup Final would be unfair, but life is unfair, so that's my theory. It proves referees do know how to time a football match when it suits them.

In the corresponding fixture in 1929 a player called Lusty Brewer scored 11 goals for Perry Street. I think there should be some sort of commemoration, not for the goalscoring feat, but for having such a fantastic name.

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