

TT No.145: Keith Aslan - Saturday 27th April 2019; **LOWER BRECK** v Carlisle City; North West Counties Division 1 North; Kick Off: 15.00; Result: 2-2; Admission: Free; Programme: £1.50p; Attendance: 70 (64 home, 5 away & 1 neutral)

How fitting that hurricane denier Michael Fish should be celebrating his 75th birthday today to coincide with the arrival of Storm Hannah which made for some unpleasant conditions round these parts. As the headline in the *'Liverpool Echo'* screamed 'Storm Hannah wreaks havoc in Liverpool' followed by an article that began 'A cruise visit was cancelled and a football match postponed as blustery weather hit Merseyside'. We don't do weather very well in this country! After being in danger of 1st degree sunburn last Saturday, hyperthermia was the problem today and I got very cold and very wet. C'est la vie.

Disappointed to find the statue of Ken Dodd has been temporarily removed from Lime Street Station due to 'modernization works' which fortunately didn't entail any coffee outlets having to be uprooted. The only 'professional Scouser' to actually live in Liverpool all his life Doddy's best joke came when he was in court for tax evasion and he said he ignored the letters for payment as they all came from the Inland Revenue and he didn't think they applied to him because he lived on the coast. I would estimate the ground is about a 45-55 minutes-walk from the station but due to adverse weather conditions I took the frequent bus from around the corner of the station to within a 7-minute walk from Lower Breck. A ludicrous £4.50p. not that that will bother anybody else!

What a club. On arrival I was greeted by the secretary who said how nice it was to see me. Nobody has ever said that to me before. Prior to kick off the manager walked down the touchline shaking hands with spectators thanking them for their support over the season. They certainly appreciate people coming to watch them here. Situated in a very deprived area of the city just a brick's throw away from Anfield there is a community café where I could dry out and stuff my face with pie and mushy peas, the only downside to the day was that they'd run out when I went back for seconds at half time.

Today was free to get in 'because the weather is so bad' and the match was accompanied by a superb programme, recently voted best in the league and it's not difficult to see why. There was a feature on the referee, and an article containing a dig at the evil scumbag club's (my words not theirs) who don't issue, plenty about the club, the league, the opposition, and the obligatory player profile. Who'd have thought Thomas Robinson is nicknamed Tommo and his favourite drink is lager. Mr. Secretary came around with free team-sheets for anybody who wanted them. The pitch is plastic, surrounded by a green fence of course, with spectators only allowed down one touchline. A small seated stand and another small area of cover is the only football furniture, all you need as it was sufficient to keep the spectators dry.

Considering the conditions both teams should be applauded for a fine match with the gale force winds not being conducive to good football. Carlisle turned out in Neon, must admit that's a new colour to me, think Lime Juice Cordial. Carlisle were most pleased with a draw as indicated by their time-wasting substitution two minutes after the game should have finished. It will be a happy coach journey back to the 'Don Marks Carpets Stadium'. And talking of happy journeys, that nice Mr. Branson's trains were spot on in spite of the weather.

04/20