

**TT No.96: Rob Davies** - Sat 14 November 2009; **Congleton Town** v Shildon; FA Vase 2nd Round; Result: 0-2; Admission: £6 (grandson £3); Programme: £1.20; Attendance: est. 250+.

It was a great pity that the weather was so stormy for our furthest Ice Hockey journey of the season so far. The trip to Manchester did not make for pleasant driving conditions to say the least. I decided looking through the fixtures that Congleton Town versus Shildon in the F.A. Vase was going to be our stopping off point in the afternoon.

The football club is actually sign posted as you drive through the town centre on the A34 from Stoke. Just in case you miss the sign, the ground can be reached by taking the second on the right after the fire station (Booth Street) and driving past the cricket ground. There is plenty of street parking available as the club have only a small car park.

Cover at the ground in the inclement weather was more than adequate for the game with a 250 seat stand and covered standing areas behind the goal and to the side of the stand.

With heavy rain falling on our arrival it took a pitch inspection at 2.15pm to declare this game officially on. The pitch was heavy but contained little surface water. During the teams' warm up the ball seemed to travel across the surface with little trouble. A good turn-out for this game especially from the North East and the visiting supporters weren't disappointed as their team produced an excellent performance to go through to the next round. Two first half goals were enough to see off the hosts, who to be honest were not in the game for long periods. I'm sure that we hadn't seen the best of Congleton though as their second placing in the Vodkat North Western Counties League promised more than they produced in this cup tie.

The ground's covered accommodation was well populated in the second half, as the sun that came out during the first half was replaced by wind and even more rain but the pitch stood up well to the deluge.

Match rating: 4\*.

06/20