

**TT No.15: *Rob Campion*** - Sat 7th August 2010; **Goodrich** v Tividale; West Midlands Regional League Prem Division; Admission: £3; Programme: £1; Attendance: 56 (head count); Match rating: 2\*.

We (Gary Spooner and myself) had a choice of three games today in the West Midlands, two on the edge of Solihull and one in Wolverhampton. We chose the latter and made our way to the Goodrich Sports Ground on the northern edge of the city in the district of Fordhouses. The ground is located a few hundred yards south of junction 2 of the M54 and took around an hour to make the journey.

The following information on the company is taken from Goodrich website: "Goodrich Corporation is a global supplier of systems and services to aircraft and engine manufacturers, airlines and defence forces around the world. From aerostructures and actuation systems to landing gear, engine control systems, sensors and safety systems, Goodrich products are on almost every aircraft. Key Markets - large commercial, regional and business aircraft, helicopters, defence and space, original equipment and aftermarket. Key Products - flight control and missile actuation; landing gear; wheels and brakes; engine control systems; cargo systems; engine nacelles and pylon systems; surveillance and reconnaissance systems, electrical power systems; evacuation systems; seating products; fuel measurement and management systems; satellite and launch vehicle control systems; sensor systems; de-icing systems and heating products; lighting systems; maintenance, repair and overhaul service."

The company's headquarters are in Charlotte, North Carolina and they employ more than 21,000 people across sixteen countries.

The sports ground is a tidy affair located at the back of the factories and houses two pitches. The main pitch is fully railed off with hard standing all the way round. A stand which seats 132 spectators is located on the far touchline with further cover being provided by the pavilion located behind the near goal. The current Goodrich Football Club were formed from the remnants of Aero Lucas who competed in the West Midlands (Regional) League (WML) between 1983 and 1989. The second team, who played in the Wolverhampton Works League reformed as Lucas Flight Controls when the first team dropped out of the WML, changing their name to Lucas Sports and again to Goodrich in 2003.

The first season as Goodrich FC saw them win the WML division 1 north title obtaining seventy-two points from their thirty league matches. Due to the sports ground not being up to premier division standard they ground-shared at Wednesfield FC for one season until the improvements were made. The six seasons spent in the top tier of the WML have seen them finish a top half finish only twice - 7th in 2005/06 and 6th a year later. Last season the club finished in 18th place in the twenty-one-team division. Opponents Tividale who come from the Oldbury area of the West Midlands finished in seventh place last season with seventy-one

points. The two teams prior to today have met on twelve occasions in league encounters with Tividale recording seven victories to Goodrich's two with three draws.

The game itself is not one of the better ones I will see this season with the first half particularly hard going. Tividale had the majority of possession and created more chances though most of those were tame shots at the home keeper or put wide of the uprights and over the bar. The home side's best chance came in the latter stages when, following an error from the home defence, allowed a one on one with the visiting keeper coming out on top. We did not have to wait long in the second half for the breakthrough as Goodrich scored with a tap in from a couple of yards out on forty-eight minutes. This with a Tividale player lying face down in the penalty area. A minute later and it should have been 2-0 but a shot was drilled wide from the left-hand side of the penalty area. Tividale then continued to have the majority of possession (like the first half) and paid the penalty with around fifteen minutes from the end when the home number nine turned his marker on a sixpence and finished well with only the keeper to beat. The pattern continued as normal for the final quarter of an hour with the visitors having the possession but failing to take any chances that came their way. Their consolation goal came right on full time from the penalty spot.

A disappointing result for the visitors who I will be seeing next Saturday for their FA Cup tie at home to Midland Football Alliance side Oadby Town. Oadby themselves started off their season with a defeat also, losing 3-2 at home to Bridgnorth Town.

07/20