

TT No.183: Mark Farnell - Sat 19th February 2011; **Congleton Town** v Bootle; North West Counties League Prem Division; Result: 0-4; Attendance: 141; Programme: 28pp, £1.

With most of the local matches at 'new grounds' postponed due to waterlogged pitches my daughter and I headed to Cheshire on Saturday to Booth Street, home of Vodkat North West Counties League Premier Division side, Congleton Town. Managing not to get caught in traffic as we passed the Britannia Stadium the journey from South Derbyshire took about an hour and twenty minutes with fingers crossed this game too would not be called off at the last moment.

We parked in an adjoining street and made our way into the ground paying £9 for us both to get in plus £1 a little further on for a programme full of the usual facts about both teams which proved interesting reading to someone who doesn't regularly follow the league. We then obtained the last two Congleton Town pin badges from the new club house which was quite cosy and pleasant and then headed out to take some photos of the ground before taking our seats in the small but adequate stand. Some of the travelling fans informed us that the game at Bootle had ended 4-0 to the Scousers with Congleton having a player sent off...

The game kicked off promptly at three and didn't take long to show that the visitors Bootle were the dominant team although both teams are mid table in the league. The visitors created a couple of early chances before Michael Young headed in on eight minutes placing his header out of the reach of Conkiie in the Congleton goal. Ronnie Morgan got Bootle's second with another well taken goal before Jamie Hay made it three before half time. Remaining in our seats during half time Lucy and I were expecting Bootle to get a few more in the second half but Conkie, by far Congleton's best player on the day, made some good blocks and saves to keep it at 3-0 until the sixty-eighth minute when Kevin Black got Bootles fourth. Black was one of three Bootle players who should have extended the visitors lead but couldn't finish their chances. Congleton had two players booked for clumsy challenges. With all substitutes brought on by both sides Woolviner was shown a straight red card on eighty-nine minutes for a two-footed challenge that thankfully missed the player he intended to tackle.

Full time then and 4-0 to Bootle. An enjoyable game for the 141 spectators most of whom seemed to have scouse accents. Back into the car, missing the traffic coming out of the Britannia Stadium and it was thoughts of tea and a trip to Wycombe Wanderers with the Brewers on Tuesday.