

TT No.19: Rob Campion - Sat 14 August 2010; Tividale v Oadby Town; FA Cup Extra Prelim Round; Result: 1-2; Admission: £5; Programme: £1; Attendance: 40 (official) 53 (head count); Match rating: 3*.

The second week of the English domestic season and it is FA Cup time already. The draw was made in early July and (despite not watching them very much now days) the fixture I always look out for first is that of Oadby Town's, and this year they have got drawn at West Midlands (Regional) League side Tividale.

Tividale first played in the FA Cup in the 1975/76 season beating Midland League side Heanor Town 6-2 in their opening tie. They ended up getting to the 4th qualifying round before losing 3-2 @ Southern League AP Leamington which is the furthest, they have gone in the competition. Oadby meanwhile first entered in the 1999/00 season and won 4-2 @ Southern League side Bilston Town in the preliminary round. Like Tividale their best run came in their opening campaign reaching the 3rd qualifying round before losing 3-0 @ Northern Premier League side Eastwood Town.

The club were founded as the senior branch of Tividale Hall Youth Club FC playing in the Handsworth & District League from 1953 to 1968. Tividale FC competed in the league between 1956 and 1960. Two years without any league football followed before joining the Warwickshire & West Midlands Alliance in 1962. Four years were spent in the Alliance before they joined the West Midlands (Regional) League (WML) in 1966. The 1972/73 season saw them win the division 1 title and promotion to the premier division. Eighteen seasons were spent in the top division before relegation to division 1 in 1991. Just three seasons were spent back in division 1 before a 3rd place finish in 1994 secured promotion to the premier division again and they have remained there to this day. A best finish of 2nd place was achieved in 2001/02, while last season saw them secure 7th place in the twenty-one-team division.

Tividale have started their campaign with a win and a defeat. The defeat came last Saturday @ Goodrich when they went down 2-1, but they bounced back with a 3-1 victory at home to Dudley Sports midweek. Oadby meanwhile have suffered two straight defeats, firstly 3-2 at home to Bridgnorth Town last Saturday and 3-0 @ Loughborough University on Tuesday.

Tividale's ground is called "The Beeches" and is around two miles from junction 2 of the M5. To get there come off the motorway and take the fourth exit onto the A4123 following signs for Dudley. Turn left onto Trafalgar Road, then right onto Birch Crescent and then finally right onto Packwood Road - the ground is at the end of the cul-de-sac.

Going into the game, despite Oadby playing at one level higher than their hosts I predicted that Tividale would win the game 2-1 or 3-1. Sometimes you are glad to be proven wrong!!!! The early exchanges looked like I was to be correct as 'Dale

scored after only six minutes when Chris Russell got behind the Oadby defence to round keeper Wayne Connolly and finished comfortably. Tividale continued to dominate and could have been further ahead with Connolly pulling off a good save on thirteen minutes when Anthony Cox tried to chip him. The visitors gradually got into the game and played some pretty decent football but it lacked a cutting edge. Their best chance of the half came around the thirty-minute mark when a shot was blocked by Tividale keeper James Trevalen.

Just six minutes into the second half and Oadby stunned their hosts with the equaliser from Ben Laxton, who latched onto a through ball, held off a challenge and slotted the ball past Trevalen. Tividale nearly caught Oadby napping and went straight up the other end but was scrambled away for a corner. The next twenty minutes Oadby probably had the better of the exchanges and deservedly took the lead on seventy-three minutes. Sam Taylor put a low cross into the box to Michael Osbourne who turned and put the ball into the top corner. The final fifteen minutes saw Tividale throw everything at Oadby but the visitors held out for a morale boosting victory. The sides go at it again in three-week's time as they have been paired together in the 1st qualifying round of the FA Vase. Oadby now play fellow Midland Alliance side Malvern Town in the preliminary round following their 3-2 victory at Cradley Town.

Today's Man of the Match: Ben Laxton (Oadby Town).

The Teams:

Tividale: 1) James Trevalen; 2) Mark Turton; 3) Jason Chilton; 4) Andy Parsons; 5) Derek Cole; 6) Adam Hill; 7) Todd Warner; 8) Rich Taylor; 9) Chris Russell; 10) Anthony Cox; 11) Matt Salmon

Subs: 12) Nick Turton; 14) Brett Clarke; 15) Ben Hughes; 16) Kyle Hill; 17) Kieran Gadd; 18) Luke Stevens; 19) Matt Hearsey.

Oadby Town: 1) Wayne Connolly; 2) Adam Smith; 3) Sam Young; 4) Adam Parry; 5) Thomas Hodson; 6) Jamie March; 7) Ben Laxton; 8) Andy Tiday; 9) Sam Taylor; 10) Michael Osbourne; 11) Andy Gunderlach

Subs: 12) Andy Cayless; 14) Rueben Joseph Walker; 15) Elliot Pacy; 16) Leon Cole; 17) J Tishibangu; 18) Hayden Loach.

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