

TT No.228: Mike Latham - Tuesday 17 April 2012: Craven & District League Northern Plant Hire Cup Third Round: **Chatburn** 5-4 Ighton Leigh; Attendance: 32 (h/c); No admission or programme; FGIF Match Rating: 3*.

Chatburn is a well-heeled village in the Ribble Valley near Clitheroe with glorious sweeping views and stone buildings, it's all very tranquil, far different than during the World War Two years when the post office was bombed. Dr Beeching's infamous axe put paid to the local railway station; these days the village is largely home to commuters by road using the A59 and has some well-known residents including several famous footballers.

The village football team share the cricket ground on Sawley Road behind the Brown Cow public house. There are glorious views across to Grindleton Fell and there was a decent turn-out of locals, many watching from the cricket pavilion, others seeking shelter from the under-hang of a groundsman's hut behind the nearside goal as April showers arrived intermittently.

The village church steeple, dating back to the 1830s provided one landmark, another a huge tree inside the cricket field boundary that was just beyond the far touchline of the football field. With stone walls as a backdrop and club helpers having to use styles to retrieve the ball from neighbouring sheep fields it is a rural setting that looked in fine condition.

In the league's major knock-out competition, the home side were second favourites against their top division opponents but won their way through to the last eight in dramatic style with a winning goal, a header from a long throw-in in the fourth minute of added-on time. Even more remarkably the home player who grabbed the winner, the no11, scored all five goals.

It was 1-2 at half-time, the Ighton Leigh goalkeeper scoring the second after a long punt from his hands and bounce that eluded the home 'keeper and a challenging forward. There was never more than a goal between the sides. Nine goals, great scenery and a few twists in the tale and a new ground to boot. The home manager made me very welcome and I spent most of the second half talking football with him while a dramatic game unfolded in front of us.