

TT No.238: Mike Latham - Sat 28 April 2012; Buck Inn Old Boys 1-2 Colburn Town (5pm ko); **Dales Cup Final 2012 (at Carperby FC)**; Attendance: 60 (h/c); Admission: £2; No programme; FGIF Match rating: 3*.

A posting on the invaluable Tony Kempster Groundhoppers' web site alerted me to the Dales Cup Final, kicking-off at 5pm on Saturday evening, making a perfect double with my trip to Richmond Town earlier in the afternoon.

SteveB who I had stood alongside at Clitheroe RBL earlier in the week was the man in the know, and doubtless fed-up as the venue was changed at short notice from its intended location at Reeth. The Reeth ground was waterlogged and so the game was played at Carperby, a ground Steve had previously visited. No such problems for me, as the Wensleydale Creamery League was uncharted territory.

Carperby, within close reach of the stunning Aysgarth Falls earned nationwide recognition when England striker Peter Crouch helped open their new facilities as part of a Mars advert. Carperby beat off the challenge of three competing villages to win a grant of £125,000 from Mars to construct their splendid stone club house and pavilion. Mars filmed the adverts to promote The FA Mars Just Play programme and Crouch was pictured playing for neighbours Askrigg against Carperby in a specially arranged match. Local tradesmen and residents worked around the clock in freezing conditions to get the pavilion finished in time for filming.

The splendidly named Wensleydale Creamery League has an informative website and the home club secretary kindly took my call on Saturday morning to confirm the change of venue.

The Dales Cup Final, I learnt traditionally holds its final at 5pm on the last Saturday in April and on a chilly but sunny evening a decent crowd gathered at the scenic setting, the tea bar in the pavilion doing a roaring trade. With simply stunning views across the hills this was a great location and the playing area was firm, well grassed and flat- a real credit to the local club after the recent weather.

A high-quality game ensued between two well-disciplined sides. The standard being far better than I had anticipated. Colburn dominated the first half and their young striker scored two fine goals, but Buck Inn OB had the better of the second half and pulled back a goal from the penalty spot. The final result was just about right on the balance of play. I had a lovely drive home via Hawes, Ingleton and Caton to the M6 at J34 to round off a good day.