

TT No.101: *Andy Molden* - Sat 9th February 2013; **Chasewell Park** (0) 4 Banbury Town (1) 4; Banbury District and Lord Jersey League Supplementary Cup Section "B"; Attendance: 10.

After many phone calls to clubs from the south coast to Leicester the only area that had a choice of games was around Banbury. Brackley, Banbury, Leamington and Easington all said they were on pending a late call off by match ref. Found that both Adderbury Park and Broughton and North Newington were also on in the OSL. By chance calling in at the North Oxford Academy I found one of the two games down for the complex on. Hardwick Old Boys were meant to be playing Finmere on the adjoining pitch, but this had been postponed. At one point both games had been called off as one pitch was unplayable but the teams had managed get their game un-postponed as one pitch was playable. The match referee had decided as one pitch was un-playable, he did not want to referee on the other pitch, or something like that so a replacement referee had to be found. The replacement was a fine replacement and handled the game well.

The pitch was of course fine, a bit muddy in the middle but even 5 years ago this pitch and the postponed one would have even been looked at the games would have gone ahead without question. Chasewell Park are midtable in BD&LJ Division 3 while Banbury Town are midtable BD&LJ Div2. The first half was all Banbury but they failed to take their chances and only lead 1-0 at the break. The 2nd period saw Chasewell fight back to go 3-1 in front only for Town to score 3 goals in three minutes to go 4-3 up. The homesters then got their 4th in the last minute of the game. The standard of play was quite good, both keepers despite conceding four goals made some fine saves and the two lads up front for Town and one of the Chasewell front line should all be playing at a much higher level. Asking one of the subs why they did not, the answer was they just want to play football with their mates and don't want the travelling at a higher level, because the Banbury area is on the border of so many leagues higher up the Pyramid.

The North Oxford Academy (was Drayton School), has a floodlit 3G hockey/football pitch, a floodlit running track with a football pitch inside and three other pitches. But looking at the wear on one of the pitches it does not look as though it has been used this season. No one knew which team played on the "floodlit" pitch, I seem to recall it may have been used for a schoolboy or youth game, I may be wrong. I have checked the Academy's website and you can hire both the 3G and running track pitch if you wish.

Those of you who have not dipped your toe in the Banbury District and Lord Jersey League, it is as it says on the tin a merger of two leagues. Teams can come from three counties Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire. It covers an area from Junction 8 on the M40 to Junction 12, in theory Oxford to Leamington - Brackley to Shipston though the latter now play in the Stratford League, there has

been a change-over of clubs between the two over the years. If it is that easy to cover this area at step 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, why not at step 7.

Looking at the leagues pages on Fulltime I note that the league managed to play quite a few games yesterday. One bonus that I did get yesterday was I found the Heyford Park ground in the airbase though yesterday the game was off. It is now a shadow of its former self but the remains of an uncovered seated stand remain and the dressing rooms appear to be next to a disused 1950's cinema. In fact, the whole area still has traces of a 1950's and 60's American setting.

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