

**TT No.77: Mike Latham** - Sat 4 April 2015 - York Football League Premier: **Church Fenton White Horse** v Osbaldwick; Result: 5-2; Attendance: 40 (h/c); No admission or programme.

Dipping into a new league is always something you approach with a mixture of anticipation and apprehension, a step into the unknown. But with the York Football League the initial good impressions were certainly well founded and I enjoyed my first taste of football here.

The League was formed in 1897 and has an excellent website that is regularly updated and full of information. The result and team-sheet with scorers and bookings etc was posted on the website by the time I got home. The league has several divisions and reserve divisions and many of the grounds appear to be in scenic locations in and around York.

That was certainly the case with Church Fenton, a small village with two pubs, one of which sponsors the football team. The football ground is on Busk Lane, adjoining the cricket ground and the players use the stone-built cricket pavilion for changing.

Many of the cricket players and officials were busying themselves with various tasks to get the cricket ground ready for the new season and the weather was bright and spring-like.

Church Fenton is a low-lying village that was mentioned in the Domesday Book and is not far from Tadcaster and close to the A1. It also has a railway station.

The football ground is railed on three sides, roped on the far side and has dug outs. The game was fast flowing and skilful and, in my view, excellently officiated by a referee whose communications skills with the players were spot-on.

The home side were 3-0 up at half-time and won comfortably enough in the end but the visitors certainly contributed to an enjoyable afternoon. I'll be definitely be back for more games in this league.

04/20