

TT No.24: Mike Latham - Saturday 14 November 2015: **Burton Thistle 1-5**
Lunesdale United Reserves; Westmorland FA Junior Cup Second Round;
Attendance: 20 (h/c).

It was another day of mass postponements due to the relentless rain which grew stronger and more persistent as the afternoon went on. I plumped for an early kick-off in case of a late postponement which would allow time for a Plan B or even C.

In the event it was a case when fortune favoured the brave. I'd noticed that Burton Thistle generally seem to play even when games are called off elsewhere and sure enough the pitch stood up well to the deluge. As usual the North Lancashire League website was up to speed with games postponed, an invaluable resource.

Burton Thistle are in Division 2, or the third tier of the North Lancashire & District League. Their ground is situated just to the north of Burton in Kendal in the hamlet of Clawthorpe, just to the east of the M6 between Junctions 35 at Carnforth and 36.

Burton in Kendal is a village on the boundary of Cumbria and Lancashire though historically was part of Westmorland. A nearby limestone outcrop known as Farleton Knott dominates the skyline and there is an ancient village church. These days the village is often by-passed by the M6 and the A6 but in days gone by was an important staging post for travellers, situated halfway between Lancaster and Kendal and also the base for a corn market.

There's a small wooden sign by the entrance to the ground and a decent sized car park to the left and more car parking on the grass by the side of the pitch. Curwen Woods are located behind the northern goal and the other two sides back on to farmers' fields. A small wooden dug out on the halfway line provides the only shelter though many of the spectators wisely chose to watch the game from the comfort of the cars.

In theory the game should have been an even one with the home side doing well in the third tier of the North Lancashire League and the visitors from Tebay similarly placed in the third tier of the Westmorland League. But after going in at half-time a goal to the good the visitors then took control of the tie, displaying some clinical finishing to quickly earn a four-goal lead. Thistle never gave up, pulled a goal back and went close on several occasions but a cruel own goal ended any hopes of a late revival.

It was another entertaining game in a lovely part of the world and was over ten minutes after three o'clock just as the rain got heavier and the murk gave way to gathering darkness.

