

**TT No.70: Steve Hardy** - Tuesday 5th April 2016; **Churchstoke** v Dyffryn Banw; Mid Wales league Division Two; Kick-Off: 6.15pm; Result: 3-0; Admission: £2; Programme: No; Attendance: 35.

Ah, the start of 'silly season'! Once the clocks go back, clubs all around the country who have lost fixtures during the wet winter, start fitting their backlog in by playing 6.15pm kick-offs two, or sometimes three, times a week. It is a wonderful time for groundhoppers like myself, and my own silly season started with a trip to mid Wales, and the lovely village of Churchstoke. In fairness, Churchstoke is only 5 miles across the Shropshire border into Wales, but I did notice some of the supporters of tonight's visitors Dyffryn Banw were talking in Welsh which was good to hear.

Churchstoke play at the local Community Centre and have a pretty good set up for this level. The pitch is railed off and there is even hard standing along the side nearest the dressing rooms, which is where the majority of us spectators stood. 6.15pm kick offs can sometimes be a bit tricky, but not tonight as both sets of players were present well before kick-off, and we even managed to get a tea bar open by 6.30pm.

On the pitch, the fact that the pitch had been recently waterlogged, meant the groundsman hadn't been able to cut the grass for some time. This meant it was difficult for both teams to pass the ball along the ground and resulted in a fair amount of 'hoof-ball' That said it was still a very entertaining game with Churchstoke winning comfortably by 3-0.

04/20