

TT No.55: *Steve Hardy* - Saturday 8th April 2017; **Tranmere Rovers U18** v Burnley U18; Football League Youth Alliance North West Division; Venue: Raby Vale Training Ground, Wilaston Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral CH63 4JE; Kick-Off: 11.00am start; Result: 2-4; Admission: Free; Programme/team sheet: No; Attendance: 43.

A trip to the Wirral for me to start this week's fun and games. Tranmere Rovers have a training ground in a very posh part of the Wirral, where the street they are based on has houses that you can't actually see because the drives leading up to them are so long. You wouldn't know it was a football training ground either, unless you were looking for it, as there is no mention of Tranmere Rovers or anyone else on the gate that leads up a very potholed drive to the car park.

Tranmere Youth are rock bottom of the North-West Division of the Football League Youth Alliance. I, therefore, expected a comfortable win for visitors Burnley and so it turned out, but not before Tranmere had given a very good account of themselves. They took the lead with a flowing passing move which was finished off by their number 9, and then spurned several other chances before Burnley slowly began to get back in to the game. With chances coming at both ends, Burnley eventually scored twice before the break to take a rather flattering 2-1 lead. The second half saw Tranmere fade somewhat, and Burnley scored twice more before Tranmere scored a deserved second right at the death.

Plenty of other incidents to report too. One of the Burnley lads was carted off in an ambulance after unfortunately suffering what looked like a broken leg, and a Tranmere player got himself sent off near the end after a dreadful two footed lunge nearly caused another.

No problems with access to the game, with the added bonus of a self-service tea room next to the changing rooms. Spectators are restricted to the area behind one of the goals and my head count this morning was 43, which included a good few from Burnley.