

TT No.52: *Steve Hardy* - Saturday November 4th 2017; **Cromford** v Wirksworth Town; Central Midlands League Division Two; Result: 0-14; Admission: Free; Programme: No; Attendance: 13 h/c

The Central Midlands league has introduced a division two this season. This is predominantly for reserve teams, but there are two first teams included as well, and today they met in the beautiful Derbyshire Dales village of Cromford.

The ground is located at Cromford Meadows where the football club share with the local cricket and rugby clubs. The rugby club has its own clubhouse and dressing rooms at the far end of the complex, with the football and cricket clubs sharing a separate and smaller dressing room and garden shed sized clubhouse near the entrance.

On the field, things are a bit of a struggle for Cromford. They went in to this game rock bottom of the table with no points at all from their opening eleven matches. Things got off to a bad start today when they kicked off with just ten players, and they got much worse when their goalie appeared to break his leg after just five minutes. The poor chap was lifted from the pitch and spent the rest of the game waiting for an ambulance to turn up and take him to hospital. By the end of the game, with no ambulance having arrived, his worried parents eventually decided to drive him to the hospital themselves as he was in terrible pain. Hope the poor chap is OK.

A clearly upset Cromford team then spent the rest of the game with just 9 men, trying to stem a tide of attacks from visitors Wirksworth. That they only conceded 14 is a testament to their sticking to it (as well as some profligate finishing from Wirksworth!).

After a very rainy Friday night, the Cromford Secretary took the trouble to ring one of our number back to confirm the game was still on, for which we were all very grateful. I do hope things improve for them as they were a most welcoming club, who actually thanked us all for coming at the end of the game.

04/20