

TT No.25: Steve Hardy - Saturday 8th September 2018; **Knaresborough Celtic** v Tingley Athletic; West Yorkshire League Division Two; Kick-Off: 2.30pm; Result: 2-4; Admission/Programme: No; Attendance: 1 h/c

Well, what an excellent set up they have at Knaresborough Celtic. Primarily for junior teams, they have a superb looking club house/dressing room block (which didn't open today) and four immaculate pitches which showed no signs of the recent drought at all. The men's senior side are unfortunately struggling on the pitch, and this defeat leaves them next to bottom of the table.

In torrential rain throughout, visitors Tingley looked much the better team for most of the game. They scored on 20 minutes after a howler by the Celtic keeper, and deservedly led 1-0 at the break. After the break though, Celtic managed to get their act together briefly, and scored twice on 51 and 57 minutes to take a surprise lead. It didn't last long though, and normal service was quickly resumed with three more Tingley goals to give them a well-earned 4-2 victory.

Surprisingly, there are no spectator facilities at all at Celtic's Thistle Hill ground. Not even a rope around the pitch. I was the only spectator today though, so it didn't matter one jot, and I was told that with neighbours Knaresborough Town at home in the FA cup as well (they won 7-3 v Kendal in front of 315 people), then the attendance here was always going to be tiny.

Celtic are a very friendly club and I was given a very warm welcome indeed. As usual, they couldn't understand why anyone would come so far to watch them, when a far bigger match was going on in Town. For me though, it was a splendid day out despite the weather!

04/20