

TT No.52: *Steve Hardy* - Saturday 3rd November 2018; **Euxton Villa** v Vickerstown; West Lancashire League Premier Division; Result: 1-2; Admission: Free; Programme: No; Attendance: 25 (h/c)

I found it difficult to understand why I had never seen a game in this league before. After the Blackburn Rovers U18s game, I had a choice of six clubs I could have visited, and I chose this one simply because they were the first to reply to my text confirming the game was on.

Euxton (pronounced Exton I understand) is just outside Chorley. Today they had a nice local derby with Vickerstown, who hail from Barrow and had probably taken about two days to get there. They certainly didn't bring any supporters with them, probably due to problems in getting a visa to leave Barrow.

The ground is excellent, although a bit basic, I thought. Perfect for step 7 though, with a fully railed off pitch and concrete walkway all the way round. The clubhouse is super with hot and cold food and drinks available from the tea bar and there was talk of a huge casserole having been prepared for the visitors for after the game. Behind the car park, there is another full-size pitch, and behind a hedge in the distance I was told there were two more pitches for the use of their numerous junior teams.

On the pitch it was pretty close in the first half, with neither side able to make a breakthrough. The second half was lots better, with Euxton taking the lead on 52 minutes when the unfortunate Vickerstown number 2 placed a perfect header in to his own net. They weren't behind for long though, as a breakaway from the half way line saw them equalise from a very acute angle on the hour mark.

After that it was end to end stuff, and I really thought a draw would have been the fairest result. It wasn't to be though as Vickerstown won it on 86 minutes to the dismay of the Euxton faithful.

So, a long and tiring day out, and I got home just in time for *Strictly*. Result.

04/20