

TT No.59: *Steve Hardy* - Saturday 17th November 2018; **Albrighton** v Prees United; Shropshire Premier League; Result: 0-3; No admission charge or programme; Attendance: 3 h/c

With a trip to the theatre planned for tonight, I really needed a local game that would get me home by 4.30pm. Albrighton seemed the perfect choice and even though this was a revisit, it was still my first look at the newly formed Shropshire Premier League.

Football in Shropshire is in a bad way at the moment. The County league has just 11 teams in it now and, unless new teams are found very soon, I can see it going the way of two other local leagues, the Worcestershire league, and Kidderminster league and disappearing altogether.

Today's game was a mid-table battle between two teams who seem to be going nowhere, and it showed. Nothing much happened on the pitch with Prees deservedly winning with a goal on 11 minutes, and two more on 76 and 83 minutes for an easy 3-0 win. The word I am looking for is 'boring'. Things were so torpid that I actually fell asleep in my car at half time and was only woken up by the cries of the two teams at the restart.

On the plus side, the ground in Loak Road is very good, and perfect for this level. Fully railed off with an excellent clubhouse/changing room block behind one goal. No floodlights of course, but they don't need them as there are so few clubs in the league that no midweek games are ever necessary.

So, what is the future for this league. Well, frankly, unless there is a change in policy from the Shropshire FA, I can see it staggering along for a couple more seasons before drifting into oblivion. Great shame.

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