

TT No.34: Steve Hardy - Saturday 21st September 2019; **Golcar United v AFC Darwen; North West Counties League First Division North; Kick-Off: 3.00pm;**
Result: 3-1; Admission: £2 (OAP); Programme: £2; Attendance: 271

Match two today was a 40-mile drive from Lancashire to Yorkshire across the beautiful moors to Golcar, which is just outside Huddersfield. Golcar are one of a number of new clubs in the NWCL following its expansion this season, and they have joined from the West Riding Amateur League.

It would be fair to say the ground is a work in progress at the moment. It is, in effect, just two-sided now, with work ongoing to run cables to the new floodlights along one side of the pitch and behind one goal. The pylons are already in place, and I was told that work would be finished this coming week with the first match under them in October. Facilities-wise there is a very small covered standing area and bar next to the entrance, with a tea bar behind the one goal that spectators can access.

The new league seems to have captured the imagination of the Golcar public. There was a crowd of 271 there today, with seemingly nobody from Darwen, judging by the complete silence that accompanied their opener on 26 minutes. They still led 1-0 by half-time, but after the break Golcar really got going as Darwen faded. They equalised in 48 minutes and things got much worse for Darwen as they had a player sent off on 65 minutes for a second yellow. Golcar got their second on 75 minutes and clinched the game with a third on 84 minutes as their supporters went crazy.

Getting to Golcar from the M62 is really difficult. It seemed far too difficult for *Sarah Satnav*, so we switched her off on the way there and relied on my passenger's superb navigational skills. Getting out was just as tricky and we spent what seemed like hours going around and around in circles before turning her off again and relying on good old human navigation to get us home.