

**TT No.38: *Martyn Girdham*** - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019; **Epworth Town Colts** v Linby Colliery Welfare Reserves; Central Midlands League Division One North; Result: 5-0; Admission: No; Programme: Yes, £1.50; Attendance: N/K

On Saturday 14th September, I decided to stay local and went to see Epworth Town Colts FC play Linby Colliery Reserves in the Central Midlands League Division One North. In order to be able to make the necessary ground improvements which would allow progression up the pyramid, Colts have moved to Carrside (DN9 1DX), the old home of now defunct Epworth Town FC - formerly of the Scunthorpe & District and Lincolnshire Leagues. The club gained possession of Carrside during the summer months and have worked wonders resurrecting the overgrown area and revamping the changing rooms and tea bar. Their second team - Epworth Town Colts Blues - were playing on the second pitch in a Scunthorpe & District League game against Honest Lawyer, named after a Scunthorpe real ale pub (that game ended 2-2).

Their first team easily beat a young Linby side 5-0 but the opposition put up a brave fight, especially in the first-half on a warm and sunny afternoon. Drinks and a glossy match programme which sold for £1.50 were available from the tea bar. Both the first team and reserve team pitches (they run back to back with a large space in between) were roped down one side and both had dugouts for the respective management teams and substitutes. Colts still use their South Axholme Academy ground in Burnham Road, Epworth, for their many youth and ladies' teams. I was told there are plans for hard standing and a small stand at the Carrside ground. I wonder if the promotion during the summer of close rivals Crowle Colts has perhaps inspired Epworth to attempt to follow suit? Crowle, by the way, continue to issue for their Central Midlands League games.