

TT No.060: 29/03/05 Easter 'Hopping: Owen Coupland - Shirebrook (NCELP) and Blidworth Welfare (CMLP).

I completed a 'double' in the Mansfield area on Saturday. The first game was at **Shirebrook**, for a 12.30 kick off against NCEL leaders Goole. Shirebrook play on Langwith road on the A60 side of the town and the ground is pretty impressive with two stands and covered terracing on the other side. The players actually warmed up for the game outside the ground in an adjacent field which holds the clubhouse in one corner and is used as a car park too. The game itself was a pulsating one with Goole's early lead scored by the irrepressible Steve Davey been cancelled out with a Shirebrook equaliser. Goole then scored twice more before half time. The second half produced no more goals but was just as entertaining as the first with many chances along with a red card for a home defender.

I followed this up with a Central Midlands Premier Division game at **Blidworth Welfare**. The ground is on the main B6020 and the ground is in a dip below the road and the cricket pitch. An interesting ground with a big stand behind one goal and loads of steps for the players to handle before actually playing- the dressing rooms are by the cricket pitch above. The game against Newark Flowserve ended 2-2 after a spirited Blidworth side came from two down and was a good advert for this league. A glossy programme was issued for £1.

An interesting pair of grounds made for a good day out.

My run of no 0-0's ended tonight at 71 games when I witnessed Belper Town 0 Ilkeston Town 0. (28/3)

03/20