

TT No. 159: Bob Davies - Tues 18th January 2011; **Biggleswade United** (1) 3, Hertford (3) 3; Spartan South Midlands League - Premier; Attendance: 74; Admission £5 (incl. very good 28-page prog); Coffee: 50p; Match Rating: #####.

Having pencilled in a visit to either Biggleswade Town (v Ashford Town Middx) or Biggleswade United, my mind was made up for me when a waterlogged pitch caused a postponement at Town. I must admit that the game itself did not really appeal to me but once it started my pre-match trepidation was proved quite wrong.

The pitch at Second Meadow was in excellent condition and both sides indeed looked up for it. The referee, Mr Cannon, put his mark on the game early by booking two Hertford players in the first 11 minutes. Having set his stall out both sets of players "behaved" themselves to an extent. This cracker of a game had both sides creating chances and it was Hertford that struck first with McCardle on target on 16 minutes. More chances at both ends, nine minutes on and a home equaliser, Sean Murray firing home through a crowded penalty area from the edge of the box. Both sides were losing possession on a regular basis, Hertford were the team to capitalise on this with, Mark Draper, scoring twice from close range in the space of five minutes. Biggleswade went in at half-time 1-3 down but certainly didn't deserve to be behind. I made my way to the club house to catch my breath and wondering if the second half could be as entertaining.

Indeed, at the beginning of the second period Hertford looked quite capable of extending their lead. On fifty-four minutes Biggleswade's goalkeeper Kevin Lane was swift out of his area to bring down an oncoming forward. He's got to go, I and the majority of the spectators thought, but no, only a yellow card. Second week running I had seen a red card offence committed with only a yellow given. Lucky lad that goalkeeper. On the hour, Biggleswade made a couple of substitutions which paid off instantly as Chris Butler scored with almost his first touch of the game. Now only a goal behind the home side pushed forward in search of an equaliser. With Hertford also trying for a "killer goal" the game took on an even more intense fervour. With eleven minutes remaining Biggleswade sub, Scott Timmins took advantage of a goalkeeping howler that allowed him a tap-in at the far post. Both teams now went in search of winner and made enough chances to double the score-line if they had all been taken. The Biggleswade bench tried to calm their players down and to defend the point gained without much success!

A draw, a fair result indeed for the most entertaining game I've seen in a long time. Yes, it was a cold evening but a game like this does a lot to get you warmed up.