

**TT No. 180: Bob Davies** - Sat 19th February 2011; **Arlesey Town+** (7) 12, Atherstone T (0) 0; Southern League Div. 1C; Attendance: 162; Admission: £7; Prog: £1.50 (36 pages); Team-sheet; Yes; Coffee: 85p.

I was always staying local due to the weather and had a list of four games that I was interested in. After losing both Wodson and Langford things were beginning to look grim. Phone calls to Biggleswade United and Arlesey Town proved more positive with Arlesey winning the vote because of distance. A lot of work had been done to the pitch to get it playable and a big thank you to all the people involved.

Not too sure what has happened at Atherstone during the past few days but it does seem fairly serious as only four players remained from the squad printed in the programme. So, it was a young and inexperienced team that took the field against an Arlesey Town side chasing local rivals Hitchin Town for top spot. An early chance for the visitors so nearly caught the home team cold but it was a false dawn as Arlesey took a two-goal lead in the first ten minutes. Leading goal scorer Joel Mason helped himself to a hat trick before Goss and new signing Chris Dillon made it 7-0 at the break.

More work on the sanded and sticky pitch during break by the hard-working home officials. The second half proved more one-way traffic with the home side making it double figures just before the hour. Full credit to Atherstone as they kept on battling and Adders substitute Harry Rickus worked an opening and forced a very good save out of home custodian Hayward. Two more goals brought the final score to 12-0, the largest winning margin in the League this season. The visiting Adders supporters, despite the score, remained very vocal, encouraging their young side throughout the game. As they say things can only get better I and hope they do for the Adders.

This is a huge victory for Arlesey in their pursuit of Hitchin Town. The win reduces Hitchin's goal difference over Arlesey from 17 to just 5. It could be a very tight finish for the leadership of this Division of the Zamaretto League and both teams have yet to play each other home and away as well. Not to say, of course, that a few other teams might fancy their chances in the run in!

+Note - Scorers: Dillon (7; 45+1); M Leach (9p); Mason (24, 35, 36, 56, 80); Goss: (40); Brown (51, 59); Marsh (68).

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