

TT No.190: Mark Farnell - Tues 1st March 2011; Chasetown v Mansfield Town; FA Trophy Round 4; Result: 2-2; Att: 2000; Programme: £2.

Having seen the game postponed due to a waterlogged pitch on Saturday, the eagerly awaited FA Trophy Quarter-Final game between Chasetown and Mansfield Town of the Blue Square Bet Premier Division took place on Tuesday evening.

Travelling down the A38 it took about 30 minutes to reach the Scholars ground and find a parking space at the local school, with street parking restricted in the area in order to bring three coach loads of travelling supporters from Mansfield. I arrived in plenty of time and handed over my ticket to gain entry in to the ground before purchasing my programme at £2...good value for a really good publication.

The ground soon began to fill up. There was a (rarely seen) segregation policy at the Scholars ground, a venue which is both friendly and warming as well as in need of development as the club make steady progress up the leagues. I sat close to a number of Mansfield supporters and this resulted in a great deal of friendly banter between the supporters. An elderly Stags' fan who bore a resemblance to 'Madge' from the ITV sitcom 'Benidorm' was subjected to taunts about where her mobility scooter was and whether she had she left her tanning accelerator at home...all good fun which I think went over her head. Eventually the 2000 crowd settled into place and the game started with a superb atmosphere.

Both sides started well with a young-looking Mansfield team having plenty of pace when moving forward and it was the visitors who came close to opening the scoring when Naylor's header hit the crossbar on fourteen minutes. Chasetown themselves created plenty of early chances but seemed unable to find anyone in the box having created good moves on the flanks. The deadlock was finally broken on thirty-five minutes when Connor was allowed to run with the ball before smashing an unstoppable volley from twenty-five yards out, sending 'Madge' and her mates wild. Half time - Chasetown 0 Mansfield 1.

Right from the restart both keepers were called on to make fine stops before Teesdale hit the bar as Chase' pressed for an equaliser. And it came on fifty-nine minutes when Jimmy Turner's cross eluded everyone and sailed into the net off the post. This time it was the turn of the home fans to go wild as the tension cranked up a notch. Chasetown continued to press forward but it was Mansfield who took the lead with another fine shot from distance, this time from Briscoe, twenty yards out with no chance for Ryan Price. The visitors now used delaying tactics to slow down the game with the home fans shouting 'The Oscars were last week!' as two or three of the Stags' players rolled around in agony clutching their faces after the slightest hint of contact with the opposition. Briscoe nearly made it 3-1 on eighty minutes but Price made another fine save. In the dying seconds (well minutes actually) Davies' corner was swung into the area and into the net after a touch off the keeper's hand making it 2-2 and another night to remember for the Chasetown

Scholars. Four minutes of injury time nearly saw Perrow snatch a winner but a draw was a fair result on the night which now sees a replay at Field Mill, next Tuesday.

Back to the car, back home and the irony of all ironies to find that the Mrs had fallen asleep in front of the telly watching a repeat of the latest episode of Benidorm. How bizarre! It certainly brought a chuckle and a smile to my face after what had been a cracking cup tie.

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