

TT1011-224

TT No.224: Mark Farnell - Sat 2nd April 2011; **Bolehall Swifts** v Heather St John's; Midland Comb League Prem Division; Result: 2-0; Att: xxx; Admission: £4; Programme: pp, £1.

Saturday saw my daughter and I travel the short distance to Tamworth to watch Bolehall Swifts play Heather St. John at Rene Road, a ground we had previously visited to watch Dosthill Colts when they shared the ground last season. We arrived in plenty of time and were greeted by the secretary Mr Latham whom I had spoken to on the phone and we were quickly ushered into the ground (entrance price £4 adults and £2 others) and purchased our programme for £1. We then enjoyed a cup of coffee and chat with the chairman who made us feel very welcome before taking our seats for the game.

Bolehall has two covered stands with seats or benches located in the main stand behind the goal with the rest of the ground open for standing spectators in front of the tea room/changing room complex.

After taking a couple of quick photos we sat down and watched the hosts kick off. They immediately took the ball down the field and scored the opening goal on 31 seconds (the second fastest goal I had ever seen following Alistair Brown's 22 second goal against Everton a few years ago for West Brom). The scorer was Grant Roscorla who was to double the Swifts score eighteen minutes later with another well-worked goal finished from close range. Heather seemed a shadow of the side that we had seen play earlier in the season and although still top of the league are seeing that lead slowly being eaten away by the chasing pack. Swifts could and should have scored at least a third goal but the shot went wide of the far post with St. John's having their best effort tipped over the bar during the first half.

Overall an entertaining game but I was disappointed by Bolehall's habit of taking the ball into the corners and retaining possession to waste time rather than go for a third goal. Heather never really threatened to pull one back and it therefore spoilt Bolehall's victory for me.

After a quick shake of the hand with the secretary and thanks and best wishes exchanged, we returned to our car in the adjacent social club car park and returned home. No pin badge again this week although we should be able to get them off the internet.

07/20