

TT No.12: Keith Aslan - Sat 20th August 2011; Roffey v Hurstpierpoint; Sussex County League Div. 3; Result: 0-1; Admission: Free; Programme: £1; Attendance: 48 (31 home; 5 away and 12 neutral).

Lovely club, lovely people, lovely setting, lovely day out. The stop before Horsham, Littlehaven, is the station for this one, with a half hourly service from London. The ground is a 15-minute walk away through a housing estate, but not as we know it. This one is more Beverley Hills than Brixton and is the kind of place you would move to, not from, when your lottery numbers come up. The picturesque ground is surrounded on all four sides by trees, railed off on three sides, with a wooden snack bar in one corner. Clearly money making isn't Roffey's top priority and I was given a friendly greeting at the gate with the words. "It's free to get in, you can buy a programme for £1 if you want but you don't have to." The clubhouse was a pleasant place to spend the time before kick-off watching Arsenal v Liverpool on T.V. but it does take a bit of the fun out of the game when you want both teams to lose. It was here I saw the rain which was apparently pouring down on London for most of the afternoon. The sun shone on Roffey all day.

The game was OK but not a classic. It could have gone either way with Hurstpierpoint getting the winner 15 minutes before the end. All in all, I don't think Roffey will be too unhappy with their Sussex League debut.

Must mention the programme, a corker and superb value for only £1. Lots to read including a fascinating page of football trivia (well did you know Aberdeen were the first club in Britain to have dugouts?) but my eyes were drawn to the team line ups. As well as the players, Roffey listed a manager, a coach, and a Psychic Clairvoyant! They must be the only club in the universe to have one of those. Sianne Jones is the lady in question and in spite of extensive enquiries nobody seemed to know quite what she did although the word "Karma" cropped up quite a bit. I would have thought the last thing a football team needed was a clairvoyant. It must surely be bad for morale if you they knew they were going to lose 1-0 before they'd even kicked off.

Missed my train back due to taking a short cut which turned out to be twice as long. There is a very detailed street map of the area on the platform from London which it might have been a good idea to look at when I arrived! Should have spoken to Sianne during the match. She could have told me I was going to miss my train and I could have gone and watched the football results in the clubhouse first!!