

TT No.94: Keith Aslan - Sunday November 13th 2011; KO: 12.05pm; **HAMPSTEAD v CAMBRIDGE**; Women's FA Cup; Result: 1-2; Admission and Programme: Free; Attendance: 12 (7 home, 2 away & 3 neutral).

It's F.A. Cup weekend and while "The world's greatest cup competition" (who are they kidding?) took place on Saturday, the somewhat lower profile women's version was played a day later. The game was played on the strangely named Hampstead Heath extension which must be one of the most glorious places in London to watch football situated as it is in Hampstead Garden Suburb, home to the super rich, and containing some of the most expensive real estate in the world.

The ground is a 10-minute walk from Golders Green tube station and whilst there are some changing rooms in the vicinity, they are not visible from the pitch. Hampstead players really seem to enjoy their football with the game having the air of a social gathering. John Baker is Secretary, Manager, Programme Editor, well everything in fact and I doubt the club would survive very long if he should decide to leave. Hampstead issue programmes for FA Cup games only as do their higher placed opponents, Cambridge.

This was a hugely entertaining game with the hopping attendee's all seated on a convenient bench taking in the hot November sunshine (and that's a sentence you won't read very often). Going off at a tangent, the unseasonably hot weather, we are constantly being told, is down to Global Warming. In a couple of months when it is snowing (snow? In London? In winter? It must be the end of the world) GW suddenly becomes Climate Change. Spooky huh?

As you would expect from their relative positions Cambridge completely dominated the first half, but football being what it is, the home side scored a goal five minutes from half time with their only shot on target to make it 1-1 at the break. In the second half Hampstead started much better but after 10 minutes the game reverted to type with Cambridge in total command. Again, they only managed to score one more goal, but this time Hampstead couldn't pull it back which was a pity as I was looking forward to some extra time, and there aren't many games I can say that about.

Watching Hampstead Ladies is a very pleasant way of spending a Sunday morning. I believe their league games kick off at 11 o'clock so you could get another game in the afternoon. I was surprised at the standard, but I suppose after you've watched AFC Wimbledon women's team, anything else is like a World Cup final!