

TT No.45: Steve Hardy - Sat December 13th 2014; **Red Star Galaxy 1** Silhill 'C' 5; Birmingham AFA - Division 5; Admission: Free; Programme: No; Crowd: 4.

Given the large number of postponements in the West Midlands last Saturday, I was actually very lucky that my first-choice game went ahead. In truth, it should never have started though, as the pitch was frozen solid in several places with frozen puddles of water sat everywhere, as one of my photographs will hopefully show!

The amiable referee gave both teams the chance to call it off, but as they were both changed and warming up pitch side at the time, they decided to carry on.

Red Star play at the Greets Green Recreation ground, which is on Whittle Street in West Bromwich. The ground is on the opposite side of the M6 from the Hawthorns, where the Baggies were entertaining Villa last Saturday. Luckily my game started at 2.00pm, so I was able to avoid the traffic chaos that surrounds every WBA home game.

Players change in a community hall on the opposite side of Whittle Street to the pitches, and then cross the road, and car park to gain access to the 4 pitches in the Recreation Ground.

The match itself saw leaders Silhill control the game from start to finish, apart from one brief spell when Galaxy scored to bring the score back to 1-2. The turning point came just before half time when a stunning Silhill goal made it 3-1. Only the player concerned will know if his goal from an oblique angle was a shot or a cross, but it looked superb.

Well done to the referee and both sets of players for just getting on with it. It resulted in another excellent afternoon's entertainment for us spectators, freezing on the touchline.