

TT No.62: Keith Aslan - Sat 12th March 2016; **DROITWICH SPA** v Rostance Edwards; Midland League Division 2; Kick-Off:15.00; Result: 3-0; Admission: Free; Programme: £1; Attendance: 128 (home 118, away 6 & neutral 4).

Joy of joys, as an altruistic gesture South East Railways were actually running some trains this weekend and Broadstairs station saw its first Saturday action for three weeks. Virgin Trains were also surprisingly running accurately to a timetable and coupled with this transport nirvana it hadn't rained for yonks. Today was a good day to be a groundhopper. I also won the club raffle, but that is where my luck ran out as the prize was a bottle of whiskey. I don't drink the stuff, and I couldn't give it to a friend for obvious reasons, so I donated it back to the club to raffle again next home match.

Droitwich Spa's ground is a 10-minute walk from the station if you know the short cut, or 20 minutes if you follow the road round to the leisure centre. There is a little cubby hole in the entrance to the clubhouse where mugs, scarfs, badges, programmes etc. were available. This was a top of the table clash and it was nice to see a decent turnout for this level. The "Pavilion Bar" had a large poster outside advertising it's Healthy Eating Policy, with a photograph underneath of a rather delicious-looking pasta meal. Strange that inside the only food available was sausage or bacon rolls! Italy v Ireland was on the TV; Italy are Rugby's equivalent of Aston Villa and are totally useless at this strange sport, the best way to describe it is it's like an A.C. London game without the attacks on spectators.

Fully railed there is a covered stand here although if the weather had turned dodgy today's crowd wouldn't have all fitted into it. Although it was third at home to top, the game was all Droitwich with Rostance Edwards (a firm of chartered surveyors in case you were wondering) never getting a look in. In spite of their domination it was still 0-0 at half time and some fans were wondering if it just wasn't going to be Droitwich's afternoon but a penalty 10 minutes into the second half got the ball rolling and from then on it was always going to be a case of 'how many'. The large crowd created a good vibe and the referee had a superb game, particularly in the latter stages when Rostance got a bit frisky with the game slipping away. The officials were tucking into the tea and biscuits in the club house until 19 minutes to 3 so maybe someone can explain how they all got changed, did the paperwork, had the vital pre match salutations, and still kicked the game off dead on time? Incidentally you might have missed the fact that this was 'Grassroots 'Ref-Spect' Awareness Weekend'. Keep those handshakes coming lads!

These are exciting times for the Midland League Division 2 with the top three clubs being separated by 1 point, Chelmsley being the third member of this, ménage à trois'. Somewhat bizarrely it is the fourth club, 7 points off the pace, who are current favourites to win it. Alvis Sporting are undefeated with oodles of games in hand and an impressive backlog meaning that in mid-March they still haven't

completed half of their fixtures. 12 league games played in 7 months. Not very good.

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