

**TT No.85: Keith Aslan** - Sat May 8th 2016; Adastral Park v Woolverstone Utd @ HENLEY ATHLETIC FC; Club Colours Cup Final; Kick-Off: 14.31; Result: 6-0; Admission: £3; Prog: £1; Att: 141 (33 Park, 50 United & 58 neutral).

Another Saturday, another Cup Final, this one for the lower divisions of the Suffolk and Ipswich League with the champions of Division 5 taking on the champions of Division 4 and while 5th tier Adastral Park's comprehensive victory was, on paper at least, a giant killing, this result wasn't a big surprise to the local cognoscenti.

Summer put in an appearance for this one, and the game was played in baking heat. The clubhouse did a roaring trade likewise the barbecue. The facilities are top notch which is why the final is always played here, indeed there is nothing else in Henley. It is a hamlet five miles to the north of Ipswich. No shops, no pub. and three buses a day with the last one back at 16.20, perfect for a 2 or 2.15 kick off, but a bit of a rush for today's 2.31pm start. Having not run any Saturday trains for the first four months of the year, a big thank you to Abellio East Anglia for finally offering weekend trains to Ipswich. The closure was due to the mythical "Network Improvement Programme" and nobody seems to have noticed that after four months of rail replacement buses nothing has actually got any better. It's exactly the same as it was before. The biggest improvement the railways could make is to run trains seven days a week the same as every other country on the planet (and like British Rail used to do).

The ground is strange in that it has one massive dugout with the club's name painted on it, and one very small one. I originally mistook the large one for spectator accommodation which is probably what it was in a past life. I'm surprised away teams given the small dugout don't kick up a fuss, but I suppose at this level any sort of dugout is a luxury.

Before the game the officials went through their warming up routine, including the 4th official. I wonder what he thought he was going to be doing all afternoon that he needed to warm up for it! A good atmosphere from a large crowd, but not quite the "almost 200" that was quoted on the league website. The site also said that Woolverstone never gave up, which they didn't, and that they will have learnt a lot from the game, which they won't. In spite of the heat the players didn't have those ridiculous drinks breaks every few minutes, and it should be noted that nobody suffered from dehydration. All in all, a pleasant day out in the Suffolk sunshine.