

**TT No. 12:** *Keith Aslan* - Sat 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016; **Chalvey v Sandhurst**; Berks & Bucks County Cup; Kick-Off: 13.30; Result: 3-1; Admission: Free; Programme: 50p; Attendance: 31 (27 home, 3 away & 11 neutral)

"Come friendly bombs and fall on Slough, it isn't fit for humans now" are the opening lines of John Betjeman's famous anti-Slough ode. Now nobody likes the place, but writing poems encouraging the Luftwaffe to obliterate it is a tad over the top. Betjeman is one of my hero's, not just for his stance on Slough, or his railway preservation work, but because in his twilight years an interviewer asked him if he had any regrets in life. He thought for a few seconds before laconically replying 'Just one. I wish I'd had more sex' What groundhopper can't relate to that? The opening credits of 'The Office' sum Slough up very well, although the bus station is now no more, and fair play to the place, they've built a new one that is even closer to the station. Jimmy Carr was brought up here and he always says that if you want to know what Slough was like in the seventies, go there now. Slough is officially the most ethnically diverse town in England, although if my walk to the ground is anything to go by, the indigenous population are somewhat under represented.

Chalvey is a downmarket suburb of Slough and is a 25-minutes' walk from the station, but for the lame and the lazy the no. 5 bus provides a half hourly door to door service. For those travelling by car it couldn't be easier with the ground just 200 yards off junction 6 of the M4. It is adjacent to the large 'Holiday Inn', handy if you want to make a weekend of it, although a mini-break in Mosul would probably be safer. Although just an open space that's roped off surprisingly the changing room block contains a tea bar and a veranda with seats and tables. As well as being served hot beverages by a very nice young lady it is the programme pick up point. Chalvey are occasional issuers, usually for cup games. With the match postponed from last week I bow to no one in my admiration for whoever tippexed the old date out and wrote the new one by hand in all 30 programmes. Incidentally, a bit of pop trivia to impress your friends, Tippex was invented by the mother of the Monkees' Mike Nesmith.

Chalvey, in their first season in the Hellenic League (Div. 2 west) are the current leaders, and were excellent value for their win against opposition from a higher division. They are looking for promotion but that will mean a ground-share which I happen to think would be a shame. Surely the only place for a team called Chalvey to play is in Chalvey? Their officials couldn't be more welcoming and there is a great vibe about the place that is notably absent in the rest of the 'village'. All-in-all an oasis of joy in a 'Slough' of despond.