

TT No. 15: *Keith Aslan* - Sat 3rd December 2016; **Hamble Club** v Baffins Milton; Wessex League Division 1; Kick-Off: 15.01; Result: 2-1; Admission: £5; Programme: £1; Attendance: 82 (40 home, 37 away & 5 neutral).

These two clubs have followed an identical path. Long-time Hampshire league rivals they both decided at the same time to better themselves carrying out large scale ground improvement work simultaneously and both were elected into the Wessex League this season. And quite a success they've made of it with the clubs lying 2nd and 3rd at start of play. After this full blooded (or dirty, depending on your viewpoint) encounter Hamble went top when previous leaders Laverstock & Ford somehow managed to lose to bottom team Andover New Street.

If you look on the internet you will find various locations for Hamble's ground, and anywhere that says they play at 'Hamble Club' or 'Hamble Community Facility' should be dismissed. They do in fact play at the Shell-Mex Ground, right out of the station and it's on the right after no more than a six-minute walk. Indeed, the area was the centre of the universe this afternoon as far as Wessex League football goes with the other half of the Hamble-Portsmouth derby taking place 400 yards down the road at Follands against United Services. Obviously, lots of recent improvement work at Hamble, new floodlights, TWO tea bars, one of which sold some very tasty looking bacon and cheese burgers and, also a mould breaking new stand, one of the very few not built by *Atcost!*

I was surprised to read some comments on the game viz. 'the second half was a bit of a non-event' 'chances were few and far between' and 'Hamble's 3 points never looked under threat' I found the second half highly entertaining, as good as the first, and thought there were plenty of chances with Baffins always looking like they could get back into the game. It just goes to show that football is a game of opinions. This is fine providing everyone respects that mine are always the right ones.

If going to Hamble Club (or Follands for that matter), the village itself is well worth a visit, and if travelling by train, check out the magic lights on Hamble Station. They become brighter when you walk under them. Very impressive and great fun to play with while waiting for your train. Met up with three hoppers on Southampton Station who'd been to Team Solent so I had some pleasant company back to London. Also, at Stratford International, met up with a train load of West Ham fans whose company wasn't quite so pleasant. In fairness, the ones in my carriage behaved themselves, they all seemed too depressed to cause any trouble.