

## TT1617-18

**TT No. 18:** *Keith Aslan* - Sat 17<sup>th</sup> December 2016; **Framlingham Town v Cornard United**; Eastern Counties Division 1; Kick-Off: 15.01; Result: 2-0; Admission: £4; Programme: £1; Attendance: 71 (60 home, 4 away & 7 neutral)

A rare automobile excursion today so thanks go to Horsham's finest for reserving a space for me in his car. If you're doing this one by public transport, you can't. The last bus leaves the village at 10 past 4. Framlingham is a charming place situated about 15 miles to the north of Ipswich. A brass band was playing carols in the town square giving a Christmas-y feel apart from the fact that people were walking around in shirtsleeves.

Due to the company I was keeping, there was an obligatory pre match pub crawl. We had to visit the Station Hotel because it is in the 'Good Beer Guide' and presumably, in the 'Most Miserable Barmaid Guide' as well. I would recommend the 'Railway Inn' down the road with more cheerful service and the opportunity to watch Chelsea's latest victory on a big screen. Judging by the pub names, trains used to be quite big in these parts. Framlingham play on the northern edge of town and although it has a clubhouse outside the ground, we didn't spot it until we left, which I like to think was due to the fog that only completely lifted in the second half. This is a nice venue with a brick stand incorporating the changing rooms, and most importantly, containing a tea bar replete with bacon rolls. There are the usual yellow painted stripes to tell people not to stand in front of the seats and block everyone's view, but two of our number somehow missed all the signs and had to be told to move by disgruntled patrons. Clearly years of groundhopping doesn't seem to give some people much insight into spectator etiquette!

One of our number was temporarily stopped from taking photographs before the match and told he needed permission from the secretary because 'we have a couple of sixteen years old in the team'. You what! He was taking photos of the ground with no players in sight. The secretary duly gave permission repeating the warning about under age players. I know this sort of thing has been in the news lately but let's have a bit of common sense here. Technically it is illegal to take photographs of underage footballers and distribute the images, a law the club have broken with a large colour photograph of Framlingham's youth team in the programme! Maybe the secretary doesn't read it?

I know I say this about every trip, but this really was an enjoyable day out. And given that the 'photographer' in our car also takes snaps of all the beer pumps he has a drink from, it made me feel a lot better about myself and how I spend my Saturday afternoons.