

**TT No.58:** *Steve Hardy* - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2017; **Athletic Sparta** v Christ the King 3rds; Coventry Alliance Division Four; Result: 1-0; Free admission; No programme; Attendance: 14.

Keen to earn a few brownie points with my other half, I thought she would be thrilled when I offered her a short break in Bermuda for this weekend. Sadly, she wasn't, and her reply of 'is that the Bermuda near Nuneaton, dear?' proved that she HAD been listening to me all these years when I wittered on about grounds, I wanted to visit in exotic sounding places.

The venue was the Bermuda Phoenix Centre in the Nuneaton suburb of Bermuda Village. The Centre is a large Community building, which houses the changing rooms and I suspect a bar, as I saw several people with pints in their hands as I was leaving. There is a bowling green behind the centre, and the football pitch to the left. The main users of this pitch are Bermuda FC, also of the Coventry Alliance, but today it was the turn of ground-sharers Athletic Sparta, who were entertaining the 3<sup>rd</sup> team of Christ the King.

On the pitch, the Czech speaking Sparta team were held at bay by the CTK lads fairly comfortably. Just as I thought a 0-0 was inevitably, though, a wild hack at the ball from the Sparta number 3 surprised everyone by sailing over the keeper and in to the top corner of the net. If the lad had meant to do that, then it would have been goal of the season. He didn't though, so it wasn't. This was in the 80<sup>th</sup> minute, and as hard as they tried, the CTK lads just couldn't find what would have been a deserved equaliser.

My headcount was just 14 for this match. There were actually more people watching the bowls on the adjoining green, and they weren't that impressed when stray footballs kept disrupting their games.

So, another very competitive match in one of my favourite leagues. I have never seen a duff game in this league, and long may that continue.