

TT1718-115

TT No. 115: *Steve Hardy* - Saturday 7th April 2018; **Chesterfield U18** v Hartlepool United U18; Football League Youth Alliance North West Division; Result: 2-1; Kick-Off: Noon start; Admission: Free; Programme/Team sheet: None; Attendance: 37.

Another season, another new venue for Chesterfield's Youth team. This year they have moved to St George's Park Graves, in south Sheffield. This is an excellent set up where the football facility is set to the rear of a large leisure centre on Bochum Parkway. There are three pitches at St Georges Park. Two are caged 3G and the third is grass, with today's match taking place on 3G pitch 2. Spectators are allowed in both cages and have a designated viewing area along one side of each pitch, although for some reason today, most of the crowd of 36 decided to watch from outside the cage whilst squinting through the mesh.

In continuous rain, the two teams put on a very entertaining game. Chesterfield are a tad low on confidence following two recent defeats but seemed up for it today. Hartlepool looked the better team for most of the first half, but a terrible mistake by their keeper gifted Chesterfield a tap in opener on 38 minutes. The second half was, once again, nearly all Hartlepool, and they got a deserved equaliser on 74 minutes. The game then looked to be drifting towards a 1-1 finish, but in the 92nd minute, a goalmouth scramble was turned in to give Chesterfield a somewhat fortuitous 2-1 victory.

This was the middle match of three for me today. All on 3G pitches. Oh, how I long for a match on grass...

04/20