

TT No. 124: *Steve Hardy* - Saturday 21st April 2018; **AFC Monton** v Stockport Georgians; Manchester Football League Premier Division; Kick-Off: 2.00pm; Result: 2-1; Admission charge: No; Programme: Free; Attendance: 15 h/c

Glorious sunshine in Manchester for a change! A chance to actually see a game played on grass, and a new programme for my collection too. What's not to like.

AFC Monton are based in Winton, which has a Salford postcode, and they used to be called Monton Amateurs. They have a very long history dating back to the 1920's if the numerous photos on the superb clubhouse wall are to be believed, and these days they are playing in the top division of the Manchester League, which is step 7-football. Sadly, they are struggling a bit on the pitch and came in to this game next to bottom in the table, with relegation a distinct possibility.

Getting off the number 33 bus close to their ground, I spotted a sports ground down a long drive, so thought that was probably my venue. It wasn't. It was actually Winton CC who play next door to AFC Monton, but as I had an hour to kill before my footie started I sat and ate my lunch to the accompaniment of leather on willow for the first time this season.

Then next door to the footie. There is a huge car park as you enter the ground, with the changing rooms and clubhouse behind the nearest goal. No spectator facilities at all around the railed off pitch though, with not even a path to stand on. There were a couple of large trees giving us plenty of shade to shelter under though, and that is where the bulk of the crowd of 15, very sensibly, sat or stood.

On the pitch I thought Georgians just about deserved their win, although they left it very late to get it. After a rather quiet opening 15 minutes, Georgians took the lead, only for Monton to equalise straight away. After that it was end to end stuff but seemed to be heading for a 1-1 draw until Georgians managed a last gasp winner from one of their substitutes. It was perhaps a little hard on Monton whose hard-working committee were really welcoming of this idiot who had come all the way up to Manchester to watch them.

For once the trains and buses involved in my day out actually behaved themselves too, giving me a top day out yet again.