

**TT No. 129:** *Steve Hardy* - Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018; **Mayfield** v Ashbourne Reserves; Midlands Regional Alliance Division One; Kick-Off: 2.00pm; Result: 3-2; No admission charge or programme; Attendance: 25 h/c

Not my first (or even second) choice of game for today, but in the end, I was really pleased I came here. 'Here' is Sudbury, in south Derbyshire, which turned out to be a beautiful little village and home to National Trust property Sudbury Hall.

The football ground is located opposite the entrance to Sudbury Hall, which gave me the perfect opportunity to take some of my arty photos of the game taking place with Sudbury Hall as a backdrop. There is no car parking at all on the ground, so it was a few, minutes' walk to the National Trust car park for me, and most of the players too, I noticed. The playing fields are not Mayfield's normal ground, and, indeed, I was told that nobody plays here regularly at the moment. An attempt has been made to form a Sudbury FC club, to enter in the Derby Summer League, but that fell through due to a lack of players willing to sign on.

On the pitch it was a typical keenly fought local derby, with several 'robust' tackles, a few punch-ups, a great deal of abuse for the Ref and even a hint of falsifying the Ashbourne team sheet, as the team listed on the league's *Full-Time* site bore little resemblance to the one that actually played. Allegedly! Mayfield scored first after 13 minutes, with the visitors equalising almost immediately. Mayfield then scored twice on the half hour mark and led 3-1 at the break. The Mayfield manager told his troops in his half time pep talk, that he guaranteed there would be plenty more goals for them in the second half. Naturally, that didn't happen, as Ashbourne completely dominated proceedings, but just couldn't score. Their second goal finally came with 5 minutes left, but it was too little, too late.

Mayfield remain in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the table, but clubs beneath them have games in hand and should overtake them. I wouldn't have thought that the facilities either here, or at their normal ground in Mayfield, would be up to top division standards either, but I wish them well in their quest for promotion.