

TT No.48: *Keith Aslan* - Saturday 28th October 2017; **AFC KILBURN** v Swanwick Pentrich Road; Central Midlands League South; Kick-Off: 14.04; Result: 0-3; Admission: £3; Programme: £1; Attendance: 32 (19 home, 11 away & 2 neutral)

With storm 'Brian' putting paid to my previous week's visit to Milborne Port my intentions to visit them today were stymied when they disappeared during the week, and judging by the conversations I'd had with their friendly secretary their demise would have come as much of a shock to him as everybody else. So, with that ground gone forever, I immediately set my sights on AFC Kilburn, another ground that I missed out on in their Central Midlands League days due to their predecessors suddenly folding, and with current results not dissimilar to Milborne Ports, I wasn't going to hang about for my second chance at this one.

Previously name Ambergate after the village they played in a couple of miles up the road they moved into Kilburn in 2015, with the facilities enabling them to attain a higher standard of football. I assume part of the deal was that they changed their name to Kilburn, but the AFC prefix? A bit naff. If it was up to me, I'd have gone for Kilburn Ambers. It's a proper old ground, an 'Atcost' free zone but with plenty of cover and a small refreshment room serving hot drinks with northern delicacy, the chip butty, appearing at half time. There is the working man's welfare just outside the ground, cheap beer but not the sort of place you'd go for a night out. The village itself, like the ground, looks much as it would have done a century ago. Not so much 'sleepy' as 'comatose' The place was pretty much deserted and I only found a Chinese Restaurant and a hairdresser's in the place, one was closed and I had no use for the other. There are oodles of buses from Derby that stop either in the village itself, a 5-minute walk from the ground, or Kilburn Turn, which is 12 minutes. They have strange numbers such as 9.1, 9.3, Amberline and Comet. The Comet has state of the art buses and runs non-stop back to the bus station. Highly recommended. 'Trent Barton' supply the services and I wish they ran buses round my way. The last bus back from Derby to Kilburn is 02.45am! If you are the other person in the universe apart from me who pays bus fares, a £6-day rover ticket will see you well. Incidentally I can recommend the food at Derby bus station. While you know you will always be conned at railway stations, there are sometimes good cheap cuisine on offer where buses congregate, and they don't come much better or cheaper than at Derby.

There is an acute referee shortage round these parts and lack of an official put paid to Kilburn's reserve match this afternoon. And when the ref. dropped out of the first team game the chairman of the Central Midlands League stepped in to officiate to ensure the game went ahead. While the FA is quite clearly run by idiots, we should remember it also has good people like this league chairman who work tirelessly in the interests of grassroots football. He went out of his way to explain all his decisions to the players and spectators apart from the only ones I wanted to know. Why did he start the game four minutes late? Why did he add 3

minutes injury time onto the first half when there weren't any injuries? and why did we have to suffer an extra 6 minutes at the end when the game was clearly over as a contest? Timekeeping is obviously an alien concept in this league (as with many others). It's easy to see why Kilburn are struggling, they dominated the first half hour without coming close to scoring and once Swanwick went ahead, that was that. I am indebted to a fellow hopper giving me a lift back to the bus stop. Silly of me really to expect to catch a bus that would require the referee to condense one and a half hours of football into two hours!

Finally, I'm sure a lot of my fans will have had sleepless nights wondering if my Immingham programme ever turned up. After two months and numerous phone calls the promised paper came through my letterbox, so they've been crossed out of my little black book. Many thanks to the Immingham official who did so much to get the programme delivered, and all I can say is if you are planning a visit there don't take any notice of what goes upon their social media sites as the person who writes them appears to make a lot of it up.

04/20