

TT No.58: *Steve Hardy* - Saturday 18th November 2017; **Ashville** v Stockport Georgians; Cheshire Amateur Cup 3rd Round; Result: 1-3; Admission: £1 for an OAP; Programme: No; Attendance: 46 h/c

After my morning match at the new Tranmere Rovers training ground, it was under a mile to Ashville's Villa Park ground in Cross Lane, Wallasey Village on the Wirral. Just as well the two grounds are so close as the 1.30pm ko here gave me just 12 minutes to eat my lunch!

West Cheshire league Ashville are the current holders of the Cheshire Amateur cup, having won it for the past two seasons. In the 2016 final they beat today's visitors, Manchester league Stockport Georgians, so this was always going to be a keenly contested match.

I really liked Ashville's ground. Fully railed off floodlit pitch with a concrete walkway around three sides, they have a fairly large stand down one side of the ground which has the home dugout embedded squarely in the middle. The Social club is vast and had a great many old team photos on the wall, as well as a trophy cabinet which had the huge Cheshire Amateur cup (or perhaps a replica for security reasons) in pride of place.

On the pitch, Ashville started really confidently and took the lead on 12 minutes. They failed to push home their advantage though and it remained 1-0 at the break. After half time Georgians started to get more in to the game and they scored a deserved equaliser on the hour mark. By this time the temperature had started to plummet and the assembled throng were really hoping someone would score again to avoid the dreaded prospect of extra time. To the chagrin of the home faithful though, it was Georgians who did just that on 77 minutes. They scored a 3rd on 84 and that was it for the holders who left the competition with a whimper rather than a bang.

No programme at Ashville these days, although they have issued in the past. Instead we were all given a copy of the West Cheshire league bi-monthly newsletter, which was an interesting read, but not as good as the real thing!