

TT No.61: *Steve Hardy* - Saturday 16th December 2017; **Stapleford Town** v Selston Reserves; Notts Senior League Division One; Result: 4-1; Admission: Free; Programme; No; Attendance: 21 h/c

With a definite 'game on' text from Stapleford Town, I was off to Nottingham in a flash, to see my first game in the Senior league this season. I always enjoy NSL games where the football is usually, shall we say, robust, and today turned out to be another splendid example.

Stapleford Town play, not surprisingly, in the suburb of Stapleford, at the Hickings Lane Recreation ground. This is a fairly large public park which houses football, cricket, tennis and bowls clubs. I would guess it is council owned, although the changing rooms/tea room building does have several 'welcome to Stapleford Town' signs up, so perhaps the Stapleford adult's team, and their 20 or so junior teams, have exclusive use of the park.

The visitors today were the stiff of Selston FC, who actually brought one or two supporters along to the game. My headcount peaked at 21, although dog walkers who stopped to watch 10 minutes of footie whilst Rover did his business, might have distorted the actual attendance. Stapleford were in control for most of the game really, and led 2-0 at the break thanks to goals on 25 and 42 minutes. When their skipper was sent off just after half time, it looked like game over for Selston, but, amazingly, they pulled one back on 55 minutes. Game on? No, not a bit of it, as Stapleford scored straight from the kick off to restore their two-goal lead and found the net again near the end to round off a 4-1 win.

This win keeps Stapleford 3rd in the division one table, with games in hand on the two clubs above them. Promotion is definitely their main aim, they told me, and I hope they achieve it. The fact that they very generously gave me one of their very warm bobble hats when I arrived too, just summed up what a really friendly and go-ahead club they are.

04/20