

TT No.72: Steve Hardy - Tuesday 26th December 2017; **Heath Hayes** v Leicester Road; Midland Football League Division One; Result: 2-4; Admission: £3; Programme £1; Attendance: 52 h/c

A Boxing Day visit to one of my favourite local clubs was just the ticket today, and a chance to banish the Xmas excess. The Coppice ground is excellent for a step 6 club, with all the facilities along one side of the pitch. A brand-new clubhouse, one standing and two seated stands, as well as a top-notch tea bar with a seated area which would have been lovely if the temperatures had not been sub-zero!

Hardly a local derby for the two clubs, of course, but a decent crowd of 52 turned up to see if Hayes could turn over league leaders Leicester Road, from Hinckley.

In truth they never looked like doing it, despite taking the lead, completely against the run of play, after 20 minutes. Up until then Leicester Road had had all the possession and chances, but going behind didn't upset them at all, and they duly equalised on 40 minutes, before taking the lead on the stroke of half-time through an audacious chip from miles out.

After the break LR looked to have sewn the game up with a third on 68 minutes, but credit to Hayes who scored straight from the kick off to reduce the arrears again to 2-3.

It looked like curtains for Hayes with the dismissal of their keeper on 75 minutes, but the resultant penalty was missed, so hope remained...for all of five minutes. Then LR scored their fourth and that was that.

LR have two very annoying supporters who stand behind the goal their team is attacking chanting 'Lesser Row, Lesser Row, Lesser Row' for what seemed like hours on end. Everyone gives them a wide berth, but with so few supporters in the ground today, there was no escape from their endless droning. Bah Humbug, I say.