

TT No.98: *Steve Hardy* - Wednesday 7th March 2018; **Crewe Alexandra U19** v AFC Fylde U19; National League U19 Alliance Division K; Kick-Off: 1.30pm; Result: 5-6; Admission: Fee; Programme: No: Attendance: 5 (h/c)

The name 'National' U19 league is perhaps a bit of a misnomer. The overwhelming majority of the teams in membership are in the south of England, but there are a few northern clubs too, and these are tucked away in the enclave known as Division K.

A 20-minute train ride, followed by a 2 mile walk out of town, took me to the euphemistically named Crewe Soccer Centre, which is on the Crewe Road heading towards Nantwich. This is a really impressive set up, with the main pitch being 3G, with floodlights and with a small stand along one side too. In arctic conditions in Crewe today it would have been wonderful to snuggle down in this stand out of the biting wind. Unfortunately, that would have made watching the game a tad difficult as a 6-a-side goal was strategically placed directly in front of the stand blocking the view completely.

So, braving the rain and wind it was for your intrepid reporter, and what a game we had to keep us entertained. I thought Fylde were technically the better team, and they played some lovely football. They just couldn't finish Crewe off though, despite taking the lead four times. Both defences were, shall we say, indifferent, and this made for a high scoring attack minded game, which Fylde eventually won with an 88th minute strike direct from a corner.

Overall an excellent afternoon out at a venue where the smell from club sponsors, Mornflake's nearby factory, made this reporter very hungry indeed.