

TT No.105: Keith Aslan - Saturday 23rd February 2019; **FOLEY MEIR** v Alsager Reserves; Staffordshire County League Premier Division; Kick-Off: 14.31; Result: 1-1; Admission & Programme: £2; Attendance: 38 (37 home, 0 away & 1 neutral)

The train up to London was packed with passengers/customers going to the 'Peoples Vote' March in London. Apparently, these, strange folk, want another referendum on *Brexit* on the basis that we were all 'mislead' in the first one! Actually, the technical term is 'lied to' but by that criteria there should be a re-run of every election in history. 1987, rail privatization will give a better rail service and cheaper fares! 1992, we will renationalize the railways! etc. So, they are marching for a 'peoples vote' (presumably the same people who voted last time). Same politicians telling the same lies, and nobody having a clue what to do afterwards. Yep that will sort things out, sounds like 'deja-vu' to me. Hope they enjoyed their day as much as I did.

Foley Meir is not the easiest place to get to by public transport with buses in Stoke all radiating out from Hanley Bus Station meaning you can't get anywhere from Stoke Station (except Hanley of course). Longton is the nearest station to the ground from where there are buses but the trains don't fit in coming back from a 2.30pm kick off. I walked it from Longton because my knee doctor says it's good for me, I'm not so sure. It took about 45 minutes. Not hard to see why the area is called the Potteries with almost every sign post pointing in the direction of earthenware-based treats. Gladstone Pottery Museum, Wedgwood visitors centre, and many more. If porcelain is your bag this is the place for you.

Foley Meir's ground is why I do what I do, it's everything a non-league ground should be. Enclosed, fully railed with a dinky metal stand in one corner with 5 very rickety wooden seats. The tin roof provided welcome shade from the blazing sun, not a sentence you are likely to see very often about a Saturday afternoon in February. Behind one goal is a raised grass bank with some very rusty crush barriers suggesting there is some terracing buried beneath. The more modern changing room block contains a large clubhouse with hot and cold drinks and pies (Give the pies a miss). The TV was showing the Stoke v Aston Villa match live, don't know what channel it was on but I wouldn't have thought this dead rubber was much of a ratings grabber outside of Stoke and Birmingham.

Plenty of penalty area action in this one, both goals coming in the second half. A melee, late doors, saw Foley numerically deficient for the last few minutes but all in all a good afternoon's entertainment. And my *Virgin* train was only 14 minutes late back into Euston. Result.