

TT No. 106: Steve Hardy - Saturday 23rd February 2019; **Olympic Crookes v Langsett Pumas**; Sheffield Fair Play League Division 3; Kick-Off: 10.30am; Result: 0-3; Admission charge: No; Programme: No; Attendance 1 h/c

The Sheffield Fair Play league is Sheffield's answer to all the various Churches' Leagues that are dotted around the country. It consists of 4 divisions and today's game saw the bottom two in division 3 in action. Neither had won a game so far this season so I reckoned that would probably change today.

The venue was the excellent HSBC Sports ground in Dore. There are 4 full-sized grass pitches, a 3G pitch in a cage, plus a cricket square, a bowling green and a tennis court, with dressing rooms and a large club house in the middle of proceedings. The 3G pitch had loads of kiddies training this morning and the large car park was rammed when I arrived, with mums and dads coming to watch little Jonny or Joanna play football.

Despite the score-line, I thought this was a pretty even game. After the diving and cheating at last week's game in Melksham, it was a relief to see two teams who, although rather low on skill, both tried to play the game fairly and enjoy themselves. Everyone was very polite, apologising to teammates for a poor pass, and to opponents who they might have fouled in some way, and I doubt the referee will have had a quieter game all season.

Langsett broke the deadlock to score their first on 25 minutes and led 1-0 at the break. It was still very even in the second half though, until, with Crookes all upfield pressing for an equaliser, Langsett broke away twice in the 71st and 75th minutes to seal their 3-0 win.

I have only seen a handful of games in this league, but have enjoyed all of them. More soon please.

04/20