

TT No.111: Steve Hardy - Saturday 2nd March 2019; **Milton Keynes Gallacticos** v Berkhamsted Raiders; Spartan South Midland League Division 2; Kick-Off: 3.00pm; Result: 0-3; Admission Free; Programme: No; Attendance: 9 h/c

After my morning match in Woughton, it was a near 3-hour wait until my second game started. What could I do for 3 hours in MK? Well, the answer was to take a tour of every roundabout in the city trying to find the North Furzton Sports Ground, that's what. Sarah the *satnav* girl was still sulking, and I am convinced she deliberately sent me the wrong way so that she could prove her worth to me by eventually getting me to the right location. Joking aside, I find places like MK and other new towns like Telford, very confusing to navigate. It seems you are continuously turning left at a roundabout when you are sure you should be going right.

Anyway, the second match today was my first in the South Midland league for about 25 years. The feature of games in MK is that every venue is the same. Gallacticos play on a council owned pitch with an identical changing room block to every other council owned set up in the City. Nothing wrong with that, of course, as they are at least providing sporting facilities for a great many locals, but a bit of variety wouldn't go amiss, would it? This one is just a roped off pitch in a field, with no spectator facilities at all. Why would you need any though as this is at best step 7 or 8 football, with little or no interest from the local population in watching them.

After the excitement of the morning's match this was definitely a case of 'after the Lord Mayor's show'. When the Raiders took an easy 3-0 lead by just 28 minutes, I had high hopes of a much larger final score. It wasn't to be though, and the Raider's *twitter* account summary of 'a very disciplined performance' sums it up perfectly. The overall lethargy rubbed off on me too, and when I got home, after Sarah tried to take me via Bolton, I realised I had taken very few photos indeed. *Mea culpa!*