

**TT No.118: Steve Hardy** - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019; **Kings Heath Rangers** v AFC Sutton Phoenix; Birmingham & District League Supplementary Cup; Kick-Off: 2.30pm; Result: 1-1; Admission: Free; Programme: No; Attendance: 3 h/c

This was always my intended game for this afternoon, but I took a bit of a risk by driving there after my morning match, as the Kings Heath Secretary couldn't confirm it was on or off. 'It is up to the Referee to decide' he told me.

Luckily the referee was all for it, so I was, once again, able to complete the Birmingham & District League for another season. The action took place at the vast Cofton Park in the Longbridge area of Birmingham. Apart from myself, the only other person of note to visit here was Pope Benedict XVI who spoke to thousands of his followers in 2010. My visit didn't quite attract thousands of my fans, in fact my headcount reached just 3, and one of them was four legged.

With most teams in the league now having finished their league fixtures, a supplementary cup has been introduced to try and give them a few more games for the rest of the season. Both of these teams are in Division 6, which is the bottom division of the B & D league, and despite the howling wind that had followed me down from Telford, I thought both teams tried very hard to play good football and try to win the game.

Phoenix took the lead from a breakaway on 35 minutes, and they held that lead until half time. Rangers came into the game a bit more in the second half, and deservedly equalised on the hour mark. At this level, players often have non matching kit, and I noticed that one chap was playing in glasses. That was something I hadn't seen since Chelsea v Jeunesse Hautcharage in the Cup Winners cup of 1971.

So, my favourite league completed for another year. Let's hope a good, few new teams join next season so I can continue my love affair with this wonderful league.