

TT No. 122: Steve Hardy - Saturday 23rd March 2019; **Nottingham** v Crowle Colts; Central Midlands League Division One North; Kick-Off: 3.00pm; Result: 0-3; Admission: Free; Programme: No; Attendance: 10 h/c

It was a mere 10-minute drive from University Boulevard to the Apsley district of Nottingham for match two. Nottingham FC are new to the Central Midlands League and are playing their games at Melbourne Park. This is a fairly large sports facility with umpteen grass football pitches spread around a super looking changing room complex. As we arrived by 1.00pm, we were really hoping that some other local games would be played at Melbourne Park, with a 2.00pm start, but it was not to be, as ours was the only game played there this afternoon.

The pitch we were on was railed off, with an area of high banking along the complete length of one side. That is where the six groundhoppers in attendance made for and much putting the football world to rights took place.

The attraction for my colleagues today was that Nottingham were playing league leaders Crowle Colts. Most of my friends won't watch reserve teams, so this was one of their last chances to see a first team playing at Nottingham.

The match started fairly evenly with mid-table Nottingham more that holding their own, and it took Crowle until 35 minutes to score their first goal. The second half was a different matter though, and with Nottingham flagging the visitors missed several easy looking chances before scored twice more on 60 and 77 minutes to seal a fairly routine victory. Having played more games than the rest of the chasing pack, Crowle really have to keep winning and hope their rivals slip up. I hope they make it.

A word, lastly, about the Referee. We discovered that he had been an emergency linesman at our morning match, having only been asked to run the line about an hour before kick-off. I thought he had a super match, and if both teams were having a go at him, he must have done something right, mustn't he?