

TT No. 124: Keith Aslan - Saturday 30 March 2019; **FC WICKHAMFORD** v Welford on Avon; Stratford Alliance Division 1; Kick-Off: 14.30 to the second; Result: 2-3; Admission: Free; Programme: £1; Attendance: 26 (24 home, 1 away & 1 neutral).

It's been my lifetime's ambition for the past two months to visit Wickhamford and today that dream came true, and what groundhopper doesn't want a Stratford Upon Avon Football Alliance '*Aquaid*' Division One match on their CV. The village is three and a half miles south of Evesham, but the two hourly bus service doesn't fit in with the trains and the match finishes about 2 hours after the buses do. A nice warm sunny day so I walked there, my knee doctor would have been proud of me, but I bottled the return and spent a large portion of next week's food budget on a taxi.

A smashing set up on the outskirts of the village there is a large clubhouse with a TV that was disappointingly showing horse racing but a tempting range of filled rolls were available with the Cheese and Onion being particularly heavy duty. No hot drinks though. The walls are adorned with photographs of Wickhamford teams through the ages. There are seats outside from which you can watch the football, most welcome after my exertions getting here. This must be the only team in the history of the Stratford Alliance to regularly issue programmes, a glossy colour 4 pager containing the teams, league tables, results and fixtures, everything you could want really. Underneath the table was the line "Redditch Borough have withdrawn from the league, their only win against Claverdon gets wiped. Lucky sods." Clearly the programme editor has a sense of humour.

As for the match, this was quality entertainment proving that a good game is a good game no matter what the level. Fifteen minutes into the second half the home team were 2-0 up and cruising when Welford upped their game (while Wickhamford downed theirs), and banged in three to win the match much to the chagrin of the home manager. Wickhamford thought they'd won it at two all when the referee awarded them a goal only to un-award it after a long discussion with the linesman who was adamant the ball hadn't crossed the line. Couldn't see from where I was standing but controversies like this will be a thing of the past when the ground graders insist that all clubs at step 8 must have VAR.

Another great day out in a place I wouldn't have known existed if it wasn't for this wonderful hobby. And I exploded the myth that the M25 is the largest car park in England. It isn't, that accolade belongs to Evesham High Street on a Saturday lunchtime!