

TT No. 125: Steve Hardy - Saturday 30th March 2019; **Hamble Club** v Cowes Sports; Wessex League Premier Division; Kick-Off: 3.00pm; Result: 1-2; Admission: £3; Programme: £1; Attendance: 51 h/c

A trip to the south coast for me this weekend, starting on the Saturday in Hamble Le Rice. The village itself was beautiful and after a brief sit down at one of the numerous cafes that are spread around the harbour, it was off to the Hamble Club for the visit of Cowes Sports. Cowes arrived in a third bottom position and with Hamble doing really well in 6th place, I don't think even their most optimistic supporter could have seen this result coming.

According to the locals, Hamble's big match had been the previous midweek, when a huge crowd watched them lose 1-0 to the newly crowned champions, Sholing. They gave it their all apparently, and were extremely unlucky to lose. Today was the complete opposite, and the whole team looked lacking in confidence and downright knackered throughout.

Cowes took the game to Hamble from the start, and had a good, few chances to take the lead before they finally did right on half time. A response was needed from Hamble, but despite being yelled at for the whole of the half time period by their Manager, it was still a lack lustre performance that followed. Cowes started playing for time on the hour mark and with Hamble seemingly incapable of breaking them down, the play got slower and slower. Luckily, Cowes scored from a penalty on 79 minutes after a very quick breakaway was ended with an agricultural challenge, and that was almost that. Hamble roused themselves for the last 10 minutes and did manage to pull one back, but it was too little, too late.

So, a well-deserved win for Cowes and it was a shame that the gloss was taken off this win by their drunken fans, who spent the whole game shouting abuse at the very young Hamble number 2. Congratulations lads, you must be very proud of yourselves.