

TT No.132: Steve Hardy - Wednesday 17th April 2019; **Jacks Bar** v Three Cups; Wolverhampton Sunday League Division Four; Result: 3-9; Admission: Free; Programme: No; Attendance: 7 h/c

You can always tell when the silly season starts, and that is when Sunday league games are played on a Wednesday. My start to the silly season took me to a brand-new facility in Wolverhampton where an area of waste land has been turned into a huge sports ground. The Barnhurst Playing Fields have up to 8 full size football pitches, a couple of kiddie's pitches and allegedly a Gaelic Football pitch, although I couldn't see where that was tonight.

There were three games planned in division four this evening, but this game was the only new ground I needed. Good job I didn't head for any of the other grounds as it turned out that all three games were being played here.

My match pitched mid-table Jacks Bar against already champions Three Cups and, once again, I was hoping for a hatful of goals. This time I wasn't disappointed, though, as Three Cups ran riot in the first half and led 8-1 at the break. I anticipated more of the same in the second, and dreamed of perhaps seeing 20 goals in total. Totally wrong of course as Three Cups seemed to take their foot off the pedal and, indeed, they lost the second half 2-1.

The game was played in a fairly good spirit, apart from one batch of handbags near the end, and I thought the Referee handled it all very well. When the fighting started, he just stood to one side and let them get on with it. Once everything had calmed down, he booked all the perpetrators and that was that.

04/20