

TT No.140: Steve Hardy - Saturday 20th April 2019; **Connect Sports** v Clarendon; West Midlands Christian League Division One; Result: 4-2; Admission: Free; Programme: No; Attendance: 3 h/c

Well, what an unmitigated disaster yesterday was! The plan was to visit Connect Sports to recomplete the WMCL again, before going on to FC Wickhamford of the Stratford Alliance in the afternoon.

Connect Sports play in the Sheldon area of Birmingham, so for the third time this season I arrived at the school which they use, and for the third time I found the place deserted. A quick text to their Manager advised me that they were playing at the West Midlands Travel Stadium in Kings Heath some 6 miles away. Luckily, I have been there many times before, so I knew how to find it, and arrived just as they were kicking off.

This was a big match in the title race with 3rd placed Connect Sports entertaining 2nd placed Clarendon. Clarendon were much the better team, I thought, and they deservedly took the lead right on the stroke of half time. That lead was doubled immediately after half time and they seemed set to go on and clinch the title, but the Connect keeper had other ideas. He told his teammates to target the right side of the Clarendon defence, and every kick he took was pumped downfield to the right side of the defence to brilliant effect. A very short back-pass from the right back let Connect in for their first goal and their keeper obligingly dropped a cross for a tap in on 59 minutes to square things up.

The 3rd goal duly arrived on 71 minutes and with Clarendon pressing for a deserved equaliser a breakaway 4th goal came in the 90th minute to wrap things up for Connect Sports. The situation now is that Clarendon are 3 points behind the top two with 2 games in hand over them as they have both finished their fixtures. Hope they do it.

Talking to the Referee after the game it turns out that this venue is the new home for Connect Sports so I have once again completed the WMCL by default. Woo-Hoo!

Then on to Wickhamford to, once again, find a deserted ground. No idea why the game wasn't played but luckily for us we have a superb account of the place from the Stephen Fry of non-league journalism, Keith Aslan, in TT124 (read his report).

All very frustrating, but these things happen in our hobby, don't they?