

**TT No.143: Steve Hardy** - Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019; **West Bromwich Albion U18s v Manchester City U18s**; FA Premier Academy League U18 North Division; Kick-Off: Noon; Result: 3-1; Admission/Team-sheet: None; Attendance: 38 (h/c)

After last week's fiasco, I was looking for something a lot easier this week. Sadly, it looked as if it was to be more of the same when I arrived at the Baggies training ground to be told I couldn't be admitted as my name 'wasn't on the list'. There were a good few of us trying to talk some sense into the jobsworth on the gate, but he was having none of it and threatened to call the police if we didn't leave! Then I thought of a cunning plan. My afternoon game today was next door to the Baggies training ground at the Aston University Sports Ground. I have been there before and was sure that the pitch furthest away from the changing rooms had a perfect view of the Baggies pitch, and so it was. Several other locals had had the same idea, and a group of us huddled together on the top of a bank that gave a splendid view of the whole set up.

The last time I saw the Baggies U18s, they were dreadful in a 4-1 defeat at Blackburn Rovers. Today they were much the better team and it was visitors Manchester City who looked devoid of any ideas (and it isn't very often you can say that!) City did take the lead on 29 minutes but it was all square just 5 minutes later and that was how it stayed until the break.

After half time, the big Baggies number 7 ran through a fairly static City defence immediately after the restart to put them 2-1 up, and the job was completed on 78 minutes when the City keeper dropped the ball for a simple tap in.

Highlight of the day for me was when the ball was hoofed out of the ground towards us exiles. The Baggies Manager asked if one of us could pass the ball back to him to be told 'Let us in and we will!'

04/20