

**TT No.148: Steve Hardy** - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019; **Willington Reserves** v Wirksworth Ivanhoe Reserves; Midland Regional Alliance Division One; Kick-Off: 2pm; Result: 9-0; Admission; Free; Programme: No; Attendance: 1 h/c

At the start of the season I wrote a brief list of the grounds I really wanted to visit during 2018-19. Now, with the dying embers of the season upon us, I did a quick check to see how many I had actually done, and, more importantly, those I hadn't. One that stood out like a sore thumb for me, was the Marston Brewery Sports ground in Burton-On-Trent where MRA side Willington have decamped to this year. A quick glance at the fixtures showed that whilst the first team had finished all their home games, the Reserves still had a couple to play. I am never averse to watching a reserve team, unlike most of my friends, so off I went.

The ground is on the Shobnall Road in Burton, right next to the giant *Marstons* brewery, and exactly opposite the Shobnall Leisure Centre where a whole host of club's play including Derby Athletic of this league. I must say I was very impressed with the whole set up with the football pitch located at the furthest end of the ground. No spectator comforts, of course, and not even a rope round the pitch, but none of that mattered today as I was, once again, the only spectator.

On the pitch, Willington are currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and could possibly win the division if they win their last two games. Presumably they couldn't get promoted though, as their first team are in the division above, although struggling near the bottom. Visitors Wirksworth Ivanhoe's first team had a cup semi-final this afternoon, and I can only assume they were struggling to field two teams as those that turned up in Burton were very poor. The match itself was a complete rout, as Willington scored four in the first half and five in the second. From a purely selfish point of view, when the ninth goal went in on 70 minutes, I was willing Willington to make it ten in the final 20 minutes, but it wasn't to be.

Another top afternoon out and home in time to watch Cardiff being relegated on the TV. What a shame!