

**TT No.24:** *Steve Hardy* - Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018; **Bedlington** v Red Row Welfare; Northern Football Alliance Division One; Kick-Off: 6.15pm; Result: 8-1; Admission/Programme: No; Attendance 5 h/c

Bedlington FC are a comparatively new club, formed in 2017 when three local junior clubs merged. The adult teams are a recent addition, and the men's first team have been placed in Division One of the Northern Alliance this season, where they are really setting the pace at the top of the table.

The senior teams play on a 4G pitch in a cage at Bedlington Community School. Spectators are allowed inside the cage although they are restricted to just one side of the pitch. This is why all my photos are so boring as they are all taken from the same position!

Kick off on the league web site was (and still is) given as 7.00pm, but as it was practically dark by that time the day before the match, I contacted the helpful club Secretary who advised me that KO had been brought forward to 6.15 for just this reason. The venue does have floodlights however, and these came on for the second half as the gloom descended.

The match itself was as one sided as the score-line would suggest. Visitors Red Row Welfare brought 4 of the five people in the crowd today, and they were actually pretty game in the first half. An early penalty and a second after 18 minutes gave Bedlington a 2-0 half time lead, but unfortunately for Red Row the barrage continued after the break with six more goals coming at regular intervals for the home team. The only highlight for Red Row came on 69 minutes with an absolutely belter of a goal, but they hardly celebrated it really as they knew they had been well and truly hammered.

I really enjoyed this match, with Bedlington playing an excellent passing game really well. Good luck for the rest of the season, Lads.

04/20