

TT No.33: *Keith Aslan* - Saturday 22nd September 2018; **LARKSPUR ROVERS** v Pitshanger Dynamo; Middlesex County League Premier; Kick-Off: 15.03; Result: 0-2; Admission & Programme: Free; Attendance: 18 (12 home, 2 away & 4 neutral).

Today was of course '*World Car Free Day*'. Just like every other day for some of us! The idea was everybody will save the planet by leaving their cars at home and travelling by public transport. Like that was ever going to happen! From what I saw it was about as successful as the '*Respect*' handshakes. Leaving my imaginary car at home I caught the Central Line to Northolt for this game, it's about a 20-minute walk although it took me a tad longer to navigate my way through a large housing estate that wasn't on my somewhat retro map.

There is a clubhouse here to shelter from the incessant rain and at another match you might be lucky on the hot drinks front, no milk or sugar today. The pitch was half surrounded by the ubiquitous '*Respect*' tape before someone lost the will to finish the job. I was protected from the worst of the elements from Harlow Dave's umbrella which was the only cover available. Middlesex League means 'programme'. No on-line nonsense here and Larkspur produced a basic 4 pager that contained everything you need. The teams, both clubs' histories and a league table. Just the job. With teams with vastly more resources whinging that issuing programmes costs them money here's a tip for you. Instead of glossy colour overpriced magazines do something like this and charge a few 'bob' for it, I can guarantee it would more than pay for itself. Once again well done the Middlesex League and, well done Larkspur Rovers. According to their club history Pitshanger Dynamo were formed in 2010 although I suspect that should read 're-formed'. I saw them play at their wooden railed ground in the last century and their badge on the front cover of the programme has 1972 on it. Larkspur were founded in 1950 but only recently started to move up in the world.

Dynamo are top of the league and didn't have any problem accounting for Larkspur. With everybody wet-through (did I mention it rained all afternoon) the referee added 4 minutes onto the second half when there were no discernible stoppages. Why do they do this, what's the point, what do they think the game will lack by just playing 45 minutes. The spurious 4 minutes produced 1 booking and nothing else of note. Even the linesman couldn't understand why the match was being dragged out so long.

I acquired a lift back to the station but as it was '*World Car Free Day*' I felt very guilty. Not really.