

TT No.40: *Steve Hardy* - Saturday 6th October 2018; **Sherwin** v Loughborough Emmanuel; Derby Church League; Kick-Off: 10.30am; Result: 7-1; Admission charge/Programme: No; Attendance 3 h/c

When I first started going to games in the Derby Church league it had two divisions and about twenty clubs participating. You could still complete the league in a couple of visits mind, as just about every game was played at the Derby Racecourse, which is a multi-pitch job almost on the scale of Hackney Marshes. Today, the league is down to one division of just 10 clubs but the good news is that a couple of new venues have been added.

One of these new venues was the setting for my fix this morning. It is the Darley Playing Fields on the Old Chester Road in Derby, and it is, once again, a multi pitch job. Sherwin are named after a Saint, Sir Ralph Sherwin and were formed back in 1973. Today's visitors are perennial strugglers Loughborough Emmanuel and, once again, I admit I chose this game as I fully expected a hat full of goals!

After the players gathered in the centre circle for a group prayer, we got on with the game. It soon became apparent that Loughborough didn't have a proper goalkeeper, and Sherwin eased to a 4-0 lead at the break. An outfield player swapped with the goalie for the second half, but it made no difference as Sherwin scored three more. The only highlight for Emmanuel came on 56 minutes, when, with the score at 5-0, they managed a goal of their own. The two Managers spent most of the game chatting with each other about the local football scene, and everything seemed very friendly and trouble free apart from one Sherwin player being booked for swearing, which is a big no-no in this league. He was immediately substituted by his Manager.

Even the rain stopped just as we were kicking off, so an excellent start to my Derby double.