

**TT No.42:** *Steve Hardy* - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018; **Punjab United** v Little Eaton Reserves; Midland Regional Alliance Division One Cup; Kick-Off: 2.00pm; Result: 4-1; Admission charge/Programme: No; Attendance: 3 h/c

My second match of the day came at the Derby Moor Community Sports Centre, in Littleover, and followed an interesting trip through the back streets of Derby. Those of you who watch such programmes as Police Interceptors, will be familiar with the term *TPac*. Well, I found myself in the middle of one on my trip to Derby Moor as six police cars descended from all directions and stopped the car in front of me at a set of traffic lights. Two gentlemen were dragged from the car, handcuffed and driven away, before you could say 'strewth'. Quite scary really.

When I got to the venue, I had a strange feeling of *déjà-vu*. Had I been there before when it was known as something else? Well, not according to my records, but it did have a familiar feel to it, I must say. The Academy is vast, with a 3G pitch in a cage at the back, plus several grass pitches, one of which being the venue for this afternoon's fun and games.

A couple of weeks ago, Little Eaton Resses had won 3-0 here in a league match. On today's performance though it is very difficult to imagine how on earth they managed that, as they were dreadful. Punjab themselves aren't pulling up any trees in this league and are next to bottom, but they were still far too good on the day. They lead 2-0 at the break, scored two more in the second half, before a very late consolation goal from the visitors on 86 minutes gave the score-line an undeserved air of respectability.

At half time, I had a look at the goings on in the 3G pitch, where a training session was in full swing for both the Derby men and women's American Football teams. Not a pretty sight I can tell you.