

TT No.45: *Steve Hardy* - Saturday 20th October 2018; **Leamington Hibernian** v AEI Rugby; Birmingham FA Saturday Vase 1st Round; Kick-Off: 2.00pm; Result: 0-1; Admission charge/Programme: No; Attendance: 8 h/c

This was the third ground I had seen the Hibs play on, and they are currently based in the small village of Cubbington, just outside Leamington Spa. The venue is the Cubbington Playing Fields which is exactly that. A park with a kiddie's play area to one side and a roped off pitch outside the excellent clubhouse/changing room block. The club also have a tea bar set up in the clubhouse, although I felt sorry for the lady running it as she would hardly have broken even with the crowd numbering just 8.

I chose this match as I was looking for a shock result. I didn't get one though, as bottom of the Midland league Hibs never looked like beating bottom of the Coventry Alliance Premier division visitors AEI Rugby. The game was strangely fascinating though, and I couldn't take my eyes off it. The visitors had a forward line of 2 chaps whose weight and age would probably be the same, 40 plus. They also had the pace of a very elderly snail, with 0 to 60 in about 4 weeks. Their winning goal came in the 29th minute when the Hibs keeper very kindly fumbled the ball into the path of the more rotund of the AEI forwards, and he just had to tap it in.

Hibs seemed a team at war with themselves really. Literally at one point, when, as the two teams emerged for the second half, a fight broke out between the Hibs keeper and one of his forwards. They exchanged blows before being separated by team mates and the second half continued with the Hibs forward concerned, screaming at his team mates to 'pass me the f***ing ball' which they steadfastly refused to do.

On a serious note, Hibs seem rather a pointless club to me. Nobody can be enjoying what they are doing on the pitch, surely, with constant abuse for one of their black players and each other, from both the team and management. That said, the Midland league is probably better for them than returning to the Coventry Alliance, say, as the Alliance standard is far higher than Midland League Division 3 and their weekly thrashings would be much more severe

04/20.