

TT No.46: *Keith Aslan* - Saturday 20th October 2018; **ASHLAND ROVERS** v Pinxton; Central Midlands League Cup; Kick-Off: 15.02; Result: 1-4; Admission: £1! for old people; Programme: £1; Attendance: 53 (34 home, 18 away & 1 neutral)

Most Saturdays the closest you can get to this one by train is Bedford, so it would be churlish not to take advantage of East Midland railways kind gesture of running trains all the way to Nottingham today from where Kirby-in-Ashfield is a half hour ride on the Mansfield branch. The ground is a 10-minute stroll from the station and for my pre. match entertainment I found a pub. in the towns cultural quarter to watch the second half of the Chelsea Man. U. match. Chelsea's equalizer coming in the sixth Fergie minute which I found very ironic and very funny.

The ground is in the pleasant setting of Kingsway Park. Although spectators are only allowed down one side that's quite sufficient for Ashland's crowds and there is still plenty of room for any 'Atcost-Action' the club might want to undertake in the future. There was a hockey match taking place on the adjacent plastic pitch (Ashland is grass) but it didn't distract me from the football due to the sex of the participants. The ground has floodlights and is enclosed by a tall fence through which cheapskates can watch the game from outside the ground. The café is the selling point here, it is closely connected to, but not owned by, the football club and has a wide range of comestibles at very cheap prices. Change from a quid for teas and coffees and double cheeseburgers for £2. It deservedly did a roaring trade.

Only a pound to get in and another pound bought an excellent programme. Ashland were forcibly transferred into the Central Mids. this season from the Notts. Senior League. "The F.A. in London decided to alter the boundaries of local leagues" quotes the programme with the word 'London' in that sentence suggesting Ashland aren't too happy with the reorganization. (Don't think they're alone on that one). Any programme worth its salt has a player profile with defender Danny Smith featuring in this one. His favourite restaurant is the Harvester wouldn't you know, but the highlight of any profile is 'What four guests would you invite to a dinner party' You get some really weird foursomes turning up in these and Danny's guest list is no exception. His four were: Karl Pilkington, Bob Marley, Ricky Hatton and Paul Gascoigne. Apart from anything else I wouldn't expect Bob Marley to contribute very much to the evening, dead people generally don't have a lot to say for themselves.

Pinxton are top of the table with six wins out of six but this is the cup and league form counts, for nothing, today. Well it does actually and the league leaders comfortably won this tie although Ashland were one up at the break. How fitting that a goalkeeper playing for Pinxton should play in all Pink, an interesting contrast to the day-glow orange his team mates were sporting. I would venture to suggest whoever chose their match day apparel is colour blind.

You can be sure of a warm welcome at this club although I fear the constraints of playing on a council owned ground will prevent any further upward mobility. But they seem comfortable where they are as long as the 'F.A. in London' don't decide to dump them somewhere else.

04/20