

TT No.5: *Keith Aslan* - Saturday 11th August 2018; **CORFE CASTLE** v Hamworthy Recreation; Dorset Premier League; Result: 1-7; Kick-Off: 15.00 on the dot; Admission: £2; Programme: £3; Attendance: 47 (34 home, 6 away & 7 neutral)

It was the Margate Gay Pride Festival today but alas I had to give it a miss this year as it clashed with the opening day of the football season. Well not really, the season started last week but apparently that doesn't count as there were no Premier League fixtures! Those nice people at *South West Trains* were intending to go on strike today but called it off on Friday, news which obviously didn't percolate through to the shunter at Bournemouth who didn't turn up leaving us with a 20-minute wait for someone to come and split our train. There is an hourly service from outside Wareham Station to Corfe Castle (a ludicrous £6 return if you are the other person who pays bus fares). It ran 18 minutes late which a local told me was pretty good for a summer Saturday. Much like '*Stagecoach East Kent*' buses then.

Corfe Castle was bursting at the seams with tourists but the plentiful eateries were well out of my price range. As football grounds go they don't come much more pictures-que than this one with the castle forming a dramatic backdrop. This was one of William the Bastard's (and yes that really was what he was called before the Battle of Hastings, I bet he was pleased he won as the moniker 'Conqueror' has a bit more gravitas). His reign heralded a boom time for castle builders, and even a thousand years later quite a bit of it is still standing. Given the large hill that I would have been required to climb to visit it, and the £11.50p admission charge, I gave it a miss. The football ground is railed on two sides with a newish building behind the goal containing the changing rooms and tea bar with hot sausage rolls making a welcome appearance at half time.

This was Corfe's debut in the Dorset Premier League and to mark the occasion they issued one of their glossy programmes. They normally issue two or three times a season, but they publicized this one in advance which they don't usually do. It's the first match I can recall going to where I've paid less for admission than for the programme but it was worth the money just for the full-page colour photograph of *Talk-sport's* Tony Incenzo. Should be a nice little earner on *E-Bay* if I can get him to autograph it. Some top of the range groundhoppers at this one with the lift back to Wareham station after the match being much appreciated.

Corfe Castle shouldn't be too despondent at this result, Hamworthy Rec. are far and away the best team in this division and at the interval the score was one all. It all fell to bits in the second half, but from what I saw I don't think the 'Castle' will struggle too much in this league.