

TT No.53: *Keith Aslan* - Saturday 3rd November 2018; **ANGMERING SENIORS** v Westfield; Southern Combination (nee Sussex County) Division 2 Cup; Kick-Off: 13.35; Result: 5-4; Admission: Free; Programme: £2; Attendance: 32 (28 home including 5 wags, 3 away & 1 neutral)

Today is the most important day of the year, it's my birthday (I'm two hours younger than Adam Ant if you're interested) and the postman delivered a sack full of mail this morning. Unfortunately, it was just the usual bills and hate mail but I have a dream that one day I'll have a friend who'll send me a birthday card. Another year older and I still don't get a free bus pass like everyone else got at 60. Life can be so unfair.

Decided to cheer myself up with a dip into one of my favourite leagues and Angmering Seniors didn't disappoint. A 35-minute walk from Angmering station - there is an hourly bus service which didn't fit in with a 1.35pm kick off but would dovetail nicely into a 2 or 3 o'clock start. Angmering is a typical Sussex picture book village, albeit a large one, and it was good to see one shop already had its Christmas display up! The scenic ground has a large wooden clubhouse (wood is so much more pleasing to the eye than brick) which contained the changing rooms, tea bar and clubhouse with the lunchtime footy showing on a big screen. It has a spacious, slightly raised veranda which would keep the entire crowd dry in the event of rain. Hot food was served throughout with the serving hatch in view of the pitch so I didn't miss any of the action while my Cheese Burger and Chips were being prepared.

I spoke to the programme editor who confirmed paper is still compulsory in this league with a £25 fine for non-compliance. So, programme enforcement in the Southern Combination but football league clubs can please themselves. It doesn't seem right somehow. Highlight of the reading matter was a coloured chart produced by the FA 'explaining' the concept of the sin bin. The editor had titled it '*Sin bins...how they work!*'. The exclamation mark would suggest that he, like myself, couldn't make head nor tail of it and unless you possessed a degree in advanced mathematics it was all a load of nonsense.

The game itself was a corker. The lead changed hands four times and when Westfield went 4-3 up with ten minutes remaining, I thought that would be that. But two goals late doors by the home side meant that it is Angmering who go on to further Macron Store Division Two Cup glory. In spite of the mess the Football Association have made of the sport a match like this is a reminder of why football is still the greatest game in the world.