

TT No.55: *Steve Hardy* - Saturday 10th November 2018; **Bush Vikings** v Rugby Town Juniors; Midland Junior Premier League U18 Division; Kick-Off: 10.30am; Result: 2-2; Admission: Free; Programme: No; Attendance; 19 h/c

I really like this league, although only venture to U18 games and no lower. Today's game was chosen as it featured two clubs at the bottom of the table, and I thought I might get a good, few goals. I was totally wrong on that count though, as the two sides put everything in to the 90 minutes, and neither side deserved to lose.

The fun took place at the Veseys Rugby Club, which is in the village of Streetly, near Walsall. The rugby club has two rugby pitches laid out, one floodlit, and one football pitch which is home to both Bush Rangers, as well as FA Sunday cup entrants Hundred Acre FC. The clubhouse was open this morning too, with hot drinks on offer and the smell of cooking bacon, which turned into bacon butties by half time.

On the pitch it was a nervous start from both teams, and after a lot of huffing and puffing, we reached the break goalless. At this point I jumped in to my car and drove the 1.5 miles up to the village of Aldridge and the home of Walsall Phoenix FC to pick up a copy of the Walsall Phoenix U12s match programme, before zooming back to watch the second half at Bush Vikings. Naturally, when I got back, Rugby had opened the scoring, and I arrived just as the Vikings scored an equaliser after a mix up in the Rugby defence. Things got even better for the Vikings as they took the lead on 75 minutes from a long -range belter of a strike, and from then on it was 'how much longer Ref' from the Vikings players every 30 seconds.

The equaliser duly came on 81 minutes from a free kick taken some way out, which sailed in to the top corner of the net leaving the Vikings' keeper stranded. Both sides then tried to get a winner, but it wasn't to be, with a draw the fairest result I thought.

And that was it for my footie. I crawled the 11 miles down to Sheldon, near Birmingham Airport to watch a match in the Birmingham Amateur cup, only to find the venue locked up and deserted. No result is shown on the *Birmingham FA* website, and no suggestion of what went wrong. Oh well, these things happen I suppose.