

TT No.77: *Steve Hardy* - Saturday 22nd December 2018; **Foley Meir** v Ashbourne; Staffordshire County League Premier Division; Kick-Off: 2pm; Result: 2-0; Admission: Free; Programme: £1; Attendance: 23 (h/c)

Once again, all the matches I had pencilled in for a visit, bit the dust by mid-morning. A great many phone calls later and I was off to Meir, near Stoke, for a revisit to Foley Meir FC. They were just plain Foley last time I visited them in 2004, and there have been a good, few changes to the ground since then too. The remains of terracing behind one goal, and along the side where the dugouts are now placed, are still visible, as are a couple of the old safety barriers as well.

Inside the clubhouse I was shown plans of the improvements they hope to make when money allows, with promotion to the North West Counties League their aim.

After a great start to the season, Foley have lost their last five matches in all competitions, and seemed rather short of confidence initially today. Luckily for them, visitors Ashbourne offered very little up front, giving Foley a fairly comfortable win. I reckon they scored their opener on 18 minutes, but the club *twitter* page says 31 minutes. The chap who scored it tried to convince everyone his mis-hit cross was deliberate, but whatever it was it sailed over the Ashbourne keeper's head and in to the top corner and Foley lead 1-0 at the break.

To their credit, Ashbourne got a bit more involved in the second half, without ever looking like scoring though. With bookings a plenty, but not much skill from either side, Foley doubled their lead on 76 minutes, and that was that.

Very friendly folk at the club, and I was delighted to find they have introduced a programme this season, which is either included with the £2 admission, or £1 if no admission is charged. The rain held off for most of the afternoon too, so another top afternoon out, just 25 miles from home.