

TT1819-78

TT No.78: *Keith Aslan* - Saturday 22nd December 2018; **ROCKLEAZE RANGERS** v Patchway; Gloucester County League; Kick Off: 15.00; Result: 1-2; Admission: Free; Programme: £2; Attendance: 31 (18 home, 3 away & 10 neutral)

This one brought out a sizeable slice of groundhoppers with some of our more loquacious brethren in attendance and the lift back to Reading Station from a well-known postman was much appreciated. The brand-new ground is a 45-minute walk from Bristol Parkway with no buses. I liked the place much more than I was expecting. Two plastic pitch's adjacent to each other with a covered stand (no seats) running along one side acting as a viewpoint and shelter for spectators for both pitches. Although the second one is primarily for rugby, the reserves have played some games here. The changing rooms and dugouts are wooden, which is far more aesthetically pleasing to the eye than brick-builds, with the whole caboodle surrounded by the ubiquitous fence, but with an exciting twist. This is the first one I've ever come across that isn't painted green. Black is the colour here.

Andrew Myland is the main man. Ex-Manager; current Chairman; Programme Editor; Tea Boy and everything else. In a conversation regarding programmes I learnt that they are still very much compulsory in this league with fines for non-issuing. Something the Isthmian League should take note of with a website that weekly praises member clubs that can't be bothered to produce the paper as though it's something to be proud of. You'll get 20 pages of glorious colour at Rockleaze.

Formed in 1976 as Nat, West Court, previous names have been Avon Court, B & W Avonside and Rockleaze Avonside before taking on their current moniker in 2010. Patchway were formed a bit earlier in 1954 and were founder members of the Gloucester County League in 1968. Today's local derby produced some quality entertainment which as well as the goals the metal work was pinged 4 times (3-1 to the home side). One all with 5 minutes to go it was never going to end in a draw with both teams only having one stalemate between them all season and a Patchway goal late doors gave them the points.

Another good day out in good company and I didn't get wet. Result.

04/20