

**TT No.8: Steve Hardy - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018; Birmingham Tigers v Inkberrow; Midland Football League Division 3; Result: 0-1; No admission charge or programme; Attendance 25 h/c**

When will I ever learn? I am too gullible by half really. Let me explain. At the start of last season, Birmingham Tigers issued programmes for their first three games and then stopped. Naturally I turned up at their 4<sup>th</sup> game last year to discover they no longer issued, but never fear, they promised to send an old copy on to me. A year later and I was still waiting for that programme, so when I spotted a copy of yesterday's programme on their *Twitter* account, I contacted them straight away and was told that, yes, I would definitely be able to pick up a copy yesterday. You can guess the rest.

Tigers have now moved to an athletics stadium in Smethwick, called the Hadley Stadium. It is just what it says on the tin really. A running track with a large stand down one side and terracing on two other sides. Plenty of room for the crowd of 25 yesterday, who were whipped up to a frenzy by the American style announcer. All rather surreal really, but they are keen to attract more spectators from the local community and seem to think all this razzmatazz will do the trick.

The more observant amongst you will have noticed I haven't mentioned the match itself yet. There is a reason for that. It was absolutely dire. Inkberrow were slightly the better of two really poor teams, and they deserved their winner which came on 38 minutes and was, I think, the only shot on goal from either side.

Once again, the Tigers have promised to send me a copy of yesterday's programme in the post. I am not holding my breath.

04/20