

TT No.82: *Steve Hardy* - Saturday 29th December 2018; **Barnton** v Cheadle Heath Nomads; North West Counties League First Division South; Result: 2-0; Admission: £3; Programme: No; Team-sheet (full colour): Free; Attendance: 34 h/c (60 officially)

Match two today followed a speed limit-breaking 12-mile drive to Barnton. I have always had a soft spot for Barnton. No idea why, they just have always seemed like a nice friendly club from afar. And so, it turned out, with everybody very friendly, a super tea bar selling all kinds of hot food, and free biscuits with my coffee too.

The ground is loveably eccentric too. Four unmatching covered areas, one with seats that are all at the same level, so those on the back row can't see a thing. None of this mattered today though, as the crowd was tiny, but for a bigger game it might be a bit claustrophobic. The far end of the ground is off limits to spectators too, but for a basically 3-sided ground I loved it!

I wish I could say the same about their players though, but I can't. Throughout, their language was dreadful, they were completely disrespectful to their opponents and the poor old Ref, who seemed used to the 90-minute tirade they gave him.

They won thanks to an own-goal on 18 minutes, where the unfortunate Cheadle player simply couldn't get out of the way of a cross shot, and a second right near the end of the 90 minutes. I thought this was a bit harsh on Cheadle actually, but for all the passing play on a really heavy pitch, they didn't actually have anyone to score a goal.

No programme today, 'due to printers being on holiday', but there was a free full colour team-sheet available at the turnstiles.

For a change, the M6 behaved itself in both directions, making for another top afternoon out for yours truly.

04/20