

**TT No.84:** *Keith Aslan* - Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019; **LAMPTON PARK** v Larkspur Rovers; Middlesex League Premier Division; Kick-Off: 15.00; Result: 3-1; Admission: Free; Programme: ha! ha! Attendance: 28 (10 home, 17 away & 1 neutral)

Having often 'bigged-up' the Middlesex County for its programme issuing credentials I came unstuck here. Programmes 'sold out'. Do I really look that stupid (no need to answer that!). If you haven't done one just 'fess up. I trust the league will be taking action, demotion would be an appropriate response. I put that idea on the back burner in my letter to the league secretary in which I asked if they could send me a photocopy when the club sent them in a programme for the game. I enclosed a stamped addressed envelope and ten-bob to cover the cost of photocopying and I await the reply (if any) with eager anticipation.

Lampton Park play at the brand-new Middlesex FA ground, Rectory Park. Northolt on the central line is about an-half-hour's walk away but as this is London buses from outside the ground are flying around to everywhere every few minutes. The set up here is very impressive. Two plastic pitches with the main one containing not one but two *Atcost* stands, floodlights and of course the reassuring green fence. There is a grass pitch 100 yards away that had a lower division Middlesex League match taking place. For me the on-site café was the big selling point with hot and cold drinks and meals available. A comfortable venue to relax while waiting for the game to start, watching the cup scores coming through on TV. With the games in blocks of 7 or 8 and three different kick off times I couldn't build up any interest in the FA Cup. It's been done for foreign television, but if I don't care how Cardiff City reserves are getting on why should anybody from the other side of the world?

Local derbies don't come any more local than this one with Larkspur Rovers playing just a mile away as the crow flies, but a bit further using the mean streets of Northolt. Having seen Larkspur a few weeks ago I couldn't make out why they had over 4 times as many supporters at this one than at their home fixtures. Clearly a big game (but not big enough to do a programme). A good match with the home side worthy winners.

All in all, another good day out. Apart from one aspect.

04/20