

TT No.95: Steve Hardy - Saturday 26th January 2019; KCC Old Boys v Liobians; Liverpool Old Boys League Division Two; Venue: Football at Simpson, Hillfoot Road, Woolton, Liverpool, L257UJ; Result: 2-3; Admission: Free; Programme: No; Attendance: 1 h/c

Liverpool has recently agreed a deal with the FA for the building of 4 ‘football hubs’ around the city, at a cost of some £17m. Each hub consists of 3 floodlit 4G pitches in cages, lovely new changing rooms and even a café. All of these hubs have now been completed, so I decided yesterday to visit one of them, at the **Simpsons Ground in Woolton**, and attempt a very audacious triple.

Before the revamp, the Simpsons ground had been home to MSB Woolton and all their various aged teams. Even with the new hub now built, there are still at least 8 grass pitches left on the site, although all of them were waterlogged today so no matches could be played.

My epic trip didn’t get off to the best of starts, when my morning game disappeared from the fixtures list on Friday night. I eventually did get my treble, but only on 2 of the pitches and not all three as I had hoped.

Rather than bore you all with details of 3 matches that you have probably no interest in at all, here is a quick summary:

Match One: KCC Old Boys 2-3 Liobians - Liverpool Old Boys League Division Two. Bottom of the table Liobians in their wonderful red and green quartered shirts pulled off a shock, but well deserved, win over their mid table opponents.

Match Two: MSB Woolton Reserves 2-1 Old Xavarians Reserves - Liverpool Premier League - Division Two. A match that had 1-1 written all over it was won in the 90th minute by a blatantly offside poke in following a goalmouth scramble.

Match Three: South Mersey 1-0 MSB Woolton 3rds - Liverpool Old Boys League Division One. Apparently, Woolton beat South Mersey 4-1 in the reverse fixture last week. Difficult to see how they managed that as they never looked like scoring today.

Then the fun and games started. On my way back to South Liverpool Station after the game, to save time and ensure I made it in time for my booked train, I decided to take a short cut down a public footpath that I had noticed on my way up in the morning. Not the most sensible decision I have ever made, as this involved a trudge along a muddy waterlogged path, through the middle of Springwood Cemetery, in fading light and pouring rain. There were some strange noises emanating from the surrounding headstones, I can tell you, and several ghostly shapes passed me on the path. Of course, they could have been dog walkers taking Fido out for his evening constitutional, but we know better than that, don’t we readers?

Just one question remains to be answered now. I was the only spectator at all three games today. Does that mean my total attendance figure today was 3 or one?

04/20