

**TT No.99: Steve Hardy** - Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2019; **Solihull Armada** v Netherton Tigers; Birmingham & District League Division Six; Result: 2-10; Admission: Free; Programme: £1; Attendance 19 h/c

Today's fix was an easy choice to make. This was Solihull Armada's last home league game of the season, and as they are rock bottom of the whole league on -1 points I really wanted to be there to see if they could actually gain their first win of the season.

They are based at the Light Hall School in Shirley, just outside Solihull. Behind the school is a 3G pitch which appears to be used for hockey, a grass rugby pitch, and way off in the distance are two grass footie pitches. That is where we trudged today, to be met by a heavy, but perfectly playable pitch which was never likely to see the game postponed.

Armada had put a lot of stuff on their *twitter* account encouraging their supporters to get down to see them achieve their long overdue first win, and in fairness a good few people did. Visitors Netherton Tigers had beaten Armada 10-1 in the reverse fixture just 2 weeks ago and they started the match in a fashion which suggested they just thought all they had to do was step on to the pitch to repeat that victory today.

Armada bossed the first 20 minutes and took a deserved lead on 17 minutes to send their supporters in to delirium. Unfortunately for them though, Netherton then realised they would have to work for their victory and they duly equalised on 25 minutes. At that point you could see the Armada lad's heads go down and they immediately reverted to the low on confidence bottom of the table side they had been all season.

Tigers scored twice more before the break to lead 3-1 and scored another 7 by the 85<sup>th</sup> minute for a 10-1 lead. Armada kept going though and scored their second on 88 minutes to half-hearted cries of 'we're going to win 11-10' from the home fans.

And that was that, except that the school staff had locked all the school gates so nobody could get out of the sports field and back to their cars. Ho hum.