

TT No.112: Steve Hardy - Saturday 22nd February 2020; **Asfordby** v GNG; Leicestershire Senior League Premier Division; Kick-Off: 2.00 pm; Result: 2-4; Admission: Free; Programme: No; Attendance: 12 h/c

I had anticipated a mad dash after my first match, with the Charnwood Leisure Centre in Loughborough being six miles away from East Leake. However, with the first match kicking off early and only having a five-minute half time, I was able to get there without breaking the speed limit and with 10 minutes to spare in fact.

Very sensibly, Asfordby had switched their game to the 3G pitch here as their normal pitch was flooded, and a good, few hoppers took advantage of a game that was always going to be on. The venue is a typical 3G pitch in a cage, with half of one side being set aside for spectators. The rest was out of bounds as I discovered whilst trying to walk round the pitch to take some pictures, only to be turned back by one of the lines-people.

The wind made it bitterly cold inside the cage, and at one point when I was pointing my camera in the right direction for once, I managed to snap a goal going in. Unfortunately, my hands were so cold by this point that they were shaking, so my super snap was blurred out of all recognition, and had to be deleted. Please don't tell anyone, but I watched the second half from the warmth of my car, and I don't regret making that decision one bit!

The game itself was very good I thought, although it did get a bit feisty at times, and the Referee took a lot of stick from both teams for the strange decisions he met. Yes, he was poor, but he was poor to both teams, so neither team had anything to complain about really. The 'home' team took the lead against the run of play on 20 minutes, but GNG soon got their noses in front with two goals of their own on 31 and 33 minutes to lead 2-1 at the break. From what I could see through my misted-up car windows, the second half was all GNG, and they looked really good going forward and deserved their eventual 4-2 win.

The cold obviously affected Sarah *Satnav* on our way home, as she kept telling me the traffic situation had changed and she was sending me on a new route which seemed to involve a detour to Norwich. Despite that, our new year's truce is still holding, mainly because I switched her off!