

TT No.117: Steve Hardy - Saturday 7th March 2020; **Mickleover Sports Reserves v Ripley Town**; Central Midlands League Division One South; Kick-Off: 2.00pm; Result: 7-0; Admission: £3; Programme: No; Attendance: 14* h/c

Football on grass returns! Although not for me, obviously. Not feeling too clever, I decided I didn't want to travel too far for my fix today and settled for a return trip to Derby, and to watch Ripley Town again, who I had seen the previous Saturday.

This week's venue was the floodlit 3G pitch in a cage at Derby University. I had seen a good, few matches at Derby University before, but all on the various grass pitches on the site, so this was yet another new 3G pitch to add to my collection. Not a very good 3G pitch either. Loads of squares and strips on the pitch have been removed and replaced by brand new pieces in a different colour to the rest of the pitch. These new pieces also stood proud of the rest of the pitch as well, and its age is definitely showing.

For once an admission charge was made by a very kind lady standing by the only entrance to the cage. It was £3 for adults and OAPs alike, but as I only had £1 in loose change on me, she very kindly took that and waved me in as an OAP. Result.

The match itself was as one-sided as the score-line would suggest. Ripley were much worse than last week's performance, and seemed to be arguing amongst themselves from the off. Sports scored at will in the first half, with the Town keeper not helping their cause with several errors resulting in a 4-0 half time lead. After the break Sports seemed to take their foot off the gas a bit by bringing on several very young lads who took a while to get into the flow of things. The 5th goal duly arrived in the 66th minutes, before the last two came in the last 5 minutes of the game to give Sports a thoroughly deserved 7-0 win.

Sports have played a few games here when the main ground pitch has been waterlogged. Today, the first team were at home, so they were happy to move to the University again, and record their 2nd 7-0 win on the trot here.

Note: *The crowd I recorded as 14 was made up of 9 people who paid the admission charge, and 5 who refused to, and watched through the green wire mesh fence.