

**TT No. 16: Steve Hardy** - Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2019; **Madeley White Star** v Cheadle Town Reserves; Staffordshire County Senior League Division 2; Result: 5-1; Admission: Free; Programme: 4pp; Attendance: 37 h/c

Madeley White Star are making their debut in the Staffs League this season, and to celebrate their first home game they issued a fairly basic four-page programme. News of this programme spread throughout the groundhopping community like wildfire, and I would guess that at least 30 of the 37 spectators were hoppers. 37 was my head count, incidentally, but other headcounts are available.

Madeley is a lovely village between Crewe and Stoke. A few years ago I went to watch the football team on their old ground in the village, but I was told that this old pitch didn't have the required facilities for the Staffs League, so they have moved to Madeley High School and use the grass pitch at the rear of the school. This one is roped off before each match, and the club also left a table with tea and coffee on it for spectators to buy using an honesty box. The programme was given away for free and several hoppers suggested to them that by charging a £1 each they could have helped towards the official's fees. They hope to issue for every game this season, but I can't help thinking they missed a trick today, as they are unlikely to get crowds of 37 for the rest of the season I would have thought.

On the pitch this was the Kieran Brown show. The Madeley number 4 was head and shoulders above anyone else on the park, scored four of the five goals himself, and general ran the show. He scored his hat trick on 12, 43 and 72 minutes before letting someone else have a go for a 4-0 lead on 86 minutes. Amazingly, Cheadle managed a consolation goal from a penalty on 88 minutes, but normal service was resumed when Brown scored his fourth with the last kick of the game.

When I arrived at the ground, I was under the impression that this was my final ground to recomplete the league. When I left, I had discovered it wasn't, so I still have one more to visit in this wonderful league.