

TT No.26: Keith Aslan - Saturday 7th September 2019; **BROMLEY HEATH UNITED** v Frampton United; Les James Cup; Result: 2-3; Kick-Off: 14.58; Admission: Free; Programme: £1; Official attendance: 93 but whoever came up with that figure must have been on drugs! Actual attendance: 40 (33 home, 6 away & 1 neutral)

1966 was a great year for English football, Bromley Heath United were formed and now 53 years later they have issued their first ever programme and at 16 glossy pages a mighty fine effort it was. New into the Gloucester County League the club play in the village of Mangotsfield which today was a sporting hub. First you pass Mangotsfield's ground, home today in a rather forlorn FA cup tie, next door is the rugby club, also at home with a somewhat larger attendance than their footballing neighbours, and then it's Pomphrey Park the delightful setting for today's entertainment. A large cultivated open space with the football ground near the entrance it's a popular spot for the locals to exercise. Set on top of a hill behind the goal is the clubhouse selling food and drink and the lunchtime football showing was Koz v Cze. Even when I'd worked out who they both were this one didn't set the juices flowing. I can recommend the made to measure cheese salad rolls at a bargain £1. You get a superb view of the match from the clubhouse, handy if it's raining but of course you wouldn't be able to count the game.

With Craig Britton the manager, Ross Britton his assistant and Phil Britton the secretary the club is very much a family affair, Bromley has been a youth team for most of its existence, with Gary Mabbutt being its most famous old boy. Only in 2014 did they start a grown-up's section and they very quickly rose through the leagues. The ground is fully railed in a glorious rustic setting in complete contrast to the enervating bus journey out from Bristol City Centre. The match was a cracker, Bromley had played 3, lost 3 while Frampton had played 3, won 3, but league form means nothing in the cup except it did and Frampton won. The home side gave as good as they got and I was at a loss to understand when they made it 2-2 midway through the second half why they started time wasting and playing for penalties. Maybe they've got some fantastic penalty takers but I'll never know with Frampton getting the winner on 90 minutes.

An enjoyable day out enhanced by the bus fares in Bristol having some semblance to reality unlike their Hertfordshire counterparts!