

**TT No.29: Steve Hardy** - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019; Hazel Grove v Brownley Albion; Manchester Saturday Morning League Division One; Kick-Off: 10.15am; Result: 5-0; Admission charge: No; Programme: No; Attendance: 1 h/c

I let public transport take the strain today, starting with a silly-o-clock bus to Stafford, and then a train to Stockport. First match was some four miles out of Stockport in the suburb of Offerton, which is where Hazel Grove FC have decamped to this season after many years at Torkington Park in the middle of Hazel Grove itself. The new venue is at Offerton Parish Park on Half Moon Lane. This is just a public Park really, with a kiddie's play area, a dilapidated changing room block and a football pitch at the bottom of a dangerously steep hill at the far end of the park.

My match today featured two Champions. Current Division One champions Hazel Grove v last year's Division Two champions Brownley Albion. The Brownley pre-match team talk was very positive, and ended with the Manager telling his team that whilst Hazel Grove are the current champions, man for man his boys were far better than them. And then the match kicked-off!

Brownley tried really hard, but were eventually overwhelmed. Grove took the lead on 6 minutes with an un-marked header at the far post, and then doubled the lead just before the break when the Albion keeper handled the ball outside the area with the resultant free-kick sailing past him as he stood motionless.

The second half was one-way traffic really with the 3<sup>rd</sup> (miles offside) goal coming on 63 minutes, followed by two more on 74 and 84 minutes. The last one was a penalty and was no more than Grove deserved.

So, a quick dash to the bus stop and back into Stockport for another bus to match two.

04/20