

TT No.30: Steve Hardy - Saturday 14th September 2019; **Wythenshawe Amateurs** v Selby Town; FA Vase 2nd Qualifying Round; Kick-Off: 3.00pm; Result: 1-3; Admission: £2 OAP; Programme: £2; Attendance: 205.

Match two today was just a short nine-mile bus journey from Stockport to Wythenshawe, and a chance to visit the new ground of Wythenshawe Amateurs. The ground has been built at the northern end of Hollyhedge Park with the entrance being off Altrincham Road and conveniently right in front of the 11A bus stop that I was travelling to.

I really liked the set up, and the behind the scenes staff were really friendly. As I walked in to the club house, one of the officials said 'He looks like one' to his friend. I look like one what? 'A groundhopper' he replied. Oh, the shame of it...and not a corned beef sandwich to be seen.

My match featured 2 Step-6 clubs from different leagues, which was just what I always want to see. Visitors Selby, of the Northern Counties East League, brought a good, few fans with them and pre-match they huddled around the telly supporting Newcastle in their noon kick-off at Liverpool. That was to be their only disappointing result of the day though as they thoroughly deserved their win in this Vase tie and never looked like losing, despite going behind.

Amateurs took the lead on 37 minutes following a breakaway from a Selby corner, but Selby soon equalised on 42 minutes with a well worked goal of their own. 1-1 at half time then, with the second half following much the same pattern with all-out attack from both sides. Selby scored their second on 62 minutes before wrapping things up with a penalty on 83 minutes.

The official attendance today was 205, which was over a hundred more than my head count made it. Hmm. I also asked the home officials why they don't refer to themselves as 'Amateurs' any more on the club signage or programme. They told me that whilst they are still officially Amateurs, as they are a Step-6 semi-professional club now, they are not really Amateur anymore, so have hidden the name in becoming Wythenshawe AFC.