

TT No.40: Steve Hardy - Saturday 28th September 2019; **Hythe & Dibden** v US Portsmouth; Wessex League Division One; Kick-Off: 3.00 pm; Result: 2-1; Admission: £3; Programme: £1; Attendance: 71 H/C

After my morning game at Canford Magna, it was an easy half hour drive to Claypits in Dibden, and the new home of Hythe & Dibden FC. I say 'new' but it was probably only new to me as the club moved there back in 2014.

I really liked the ground in an eccentric sort of way. It has a very small stand on one side of the pitch (holding about 20 people at a guess), a row of corrugated iron cover on the opposite side and a strange block of uncovered seating near the entrance. That was more than was needed today though as the official attendance was 71 (my headcount was 25!) and included seemingly nobody from the visitors.

The match featured 2nd v 1st in the table and it turned out to be a very tight game indeed. The visitors took the lead on 25 minutes following a keeper error, and they looked the better side right up to the break. After half time Hythe got back in to the game via a lucky deflection on 66 minutes and then took the lead on 78. The sending off of the US number 6 effectively ended their chances, but I thought they were probably worth at least a draw.

Other results this afternoon meant that Hythe stayed in second place with USP dropping to fourth. It is very crowded at the top of the division and will take some steady nerves to win the division this year.