

**TT No.41: Steve Hardy** - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019; **Totton & Eling** v Andover New Street; Wessex League Cup 2<sup>nd</sup> Round; Kick-Off: 7.45 pm; Result: 1-0; Admission: £3; Programme: No; Attendance: 12 H/C

Up until today, I had always thought that the two closest grounds to each other in the UK were the Dundee clubs. A drastic revision of that thinking is now called for as Totton & Eling and AFC Totton are as close as you can be, and actually share the same complex.

I was mightily relieved to see a tweet from T&E saying 'game on' after their 5pm inspection, as a good, few games in the area had been called off much earlier. It turned out the pitch was in a superb condition, although the gateman told me it had been touch and go.

After all that build up, the game itself was really rather poor. Visitors New Street had lost 9-1 the previous Saturday, and seemed determined not to have a repeat of that score-line at any cost. Three of their players were booked in the first half for overzealous tackles, although I thought the first two bookings were both for their number 8 who may have got away with it there. The only goal came from an own goal when a cross was turned into his own net by the New Street number 6 on 25 minutes, and that was it really.

No programme tonight, because (1) It's a cup game and we don't have to or (2) Frankly we didn't think the game would go ahead so didn't bother. A rather bazaar touch from officials when people started asking for the non-existing programme, was to give everybody a copy of the programme from the league match between the two sides back in August!

No official attendance figure was given on Full-time tonight either. Discounting the visiting officials and several blazers from the Wessex league, none of whom paid, my headcount was just 12. Indeed, there seemed to be more people watching training at AFC Totton next door. That must be heart-breaking for T&E officials who give their all for the club they love with no reward at all.