

TT No.66: Keith Aslan - Saturday 16th November 2019; **HATFIELD UNITED** v Glenn Sports; Herts County League Division 1; Kick Off: 14.04; Result: 0-2; Admission & programme: £3; Attendance: 39 (30 home, 7 away & 2 neutral)

A Saturday without rain, a nice change for my visit to Hatfield United who today were playing at Roe Hill due to a fixture clash at their usual home at the Birchwood Leisure Centre. What did surprise me was that the league allocated them this ground rather than the club finding it themselves. Roe Hill is a 25-minute stroll from Hatfield Station and has all the facilities you would expect in the Herts county League. None. There was a building with a large banner saying 'Coffee Lounge' which stayed resolutely closed. With a football match and a Rugby match taking place this afternoon if it doesn't open now, I can't see when it would. People who know about these things say a number of Herts County League teams have used this as their home ground but to date it has passed me by.

They put their excellent programme on line. (I've no problem with e programmes providing clubs also do a real one). What stunned me was the last time I looked it had 199 hits. Who are these people? If all the players of both teams logged onto it, it wouldn't come to that figure and, how many players are interested in programmes anyway (even the ones that can read!)? It's a pity that a few more of the 199 aren't tempted to come and watch the match. At the ground the two shoppers were singled out by a director with the programmes but he didn't approach anybody else and we appeared to be the only people with the paper. Surely the club could have made a few 'Bob' hawking them around. Today's issue was in memory of former player Jamie McVeigh who committed suicide six years ago at the age of 19. His mother and sisters were in attendance. There is a terrific photograph of Hatfield's 1937 Bingham-Cox Cup winning team on the back page of the programme, probably the last silverware they won. Also, the ubiquitous player profile which made me feel I really know Mike Alderman with such hard hitting questions as Favourite colour? Favourite meal? and the old favourite: Which three people would you invite for a night out? At least one of them was dead which I would have thought would have put a bit of a downer on the evening.

There was a rugby match adjacent to the proper game and while the football kicked off four minutes late the rugby kicked off 4 minutes early. The rugby also only had a five-minute half time with the players staying on the pitch. The football was entertaining enough with the second half an improvement on the first and with the players giving so much flack to the referee it was not for the first time I wondered why anybody would want to do the job far less spinning out the aggro. by playing pointless extra minutes at the end.

With the early kick off and faultless train connections I was back in my country dacha in time for '*Strictly Come Dancing*'. I'm glad I don't get home this early most Saturdays.

