

TT1920-8

TT No.8: Steve Hardy - Saturday 27th July 2019; **Wyrley United** v Coven Athletic; Pre-Season Friendly; Result:1-0 (abandoned 75 mins); Admission: Free; Programme: No; Attendance: 26

Yet another PSF at a venue that I had never visited before, despite it being only 4 miles from home. The Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre, on the outskirts of Cheslyn Hay, houses a floodlit 3G pitch in a cage, yet isn't used by any local clubs as I understand it is too short for FA approval. The venue was the only reason I took in this match and I won't be returning any time soon either, as it turned out to be a thoroughly depressing afternoon all round.

For a start, it rained continuously, and as there is no cover of any sort there, we spectators got drenched (apart from the sensible punters who sat in their cars to watch). Then there was the football itself. Two really poor teams struggled to create anything much, with Wyrley scoring the only goal on 24 minutes. After half-time things got out of hand with crunching tackles going in from both sides, several bookings, a Wyrley player taken off after the ref said 'sub him or I send him off', and a mass brawl on 75 minutes which saw a Coven player sent off for assault, before the Referee decided he had seen enough and abandoned the game. This came as an immense relief to most of us spectators who wondered why he had taken so long to do so, but all credit to him for trying to let the football continue despite all the abuse he was getting.

I haven't seen a PSF as depressing as this for a long time, but with proper football starting again next Saturday let's hope there are no more matches like it for the next 8 months.

04/20