

**TT No.81: Steve Hardy** - Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2019; **Anstey Town** v Greenhill YC; Leicestershire Senior League Division One; Venue: **Aylestone Park FC 3G**; Kick-Off: 2.00 pm; Result: 1 - 1; Admission: Free; Programme: No; Attendance: 13 h/c.

My second match today was a mere 5-mile drive across Leicester to the Saffron Road ground of Aylestone Park FC. Very sensibly, Anstey Town had booked the 3G pitch at the rear of the grass pitch Aylestone Park use, as their own ground was, once again, unplayable.

Frankly, I didn't even know there WAS a 3G pitch here, so once I discovered the match had been moved here it was a no-brainer really. The pitch is the usual plastic pitch in a cage job, although there is a dedicated area for spectators to stand in and even a small stand to sit in. You have to sit in the back row of the stand to watch the game however as there is no view at all from the bottom row.

You will notice that I haven't mentioned the football yet. There is a reason for that. It was dire. Greenhill scored with the last kick of the first half, and Anstey equalised in the second half, and frankly that was it. A couple of things happened during the game that did alleviate the gloom though. Firstly, the Greenhill half time team talk was held up by one of their players taking himself off to a spot on his own where he proceeded to pray for ten minutes. And do you know what? Nobody complained or shouted abuse at him to hurry up and just waited until he had finished before holding the team-talk. Respect at its best there I reckon.

The second thing was when the mobile of one of the club linesmen went off during the game. Rather than ignore it until there was a break in play, he just answered it and started chatting to a mate whilst the game went on around him. Priceless.

So, that it the end of my travels for 2019. My mental health problems have meant I haven't been able to go to as many matches as I would have liked this year, so let's hope things improve in 2020. A Happy New Year to both my readers.