

TT No.146: Andy Molden - Thurs 18th April 2013; **Bedgrove United** v Bucks CC; Aylesbury & District League Prem; Result: 0-5; Attendance: 12.

Bedgrove United have played at Kimble Cricket Club in Little Kimble for quite a number of years now. I had been before only to find a cricket match in progress. I had tried to check this game but had no joy in anyone answering a phone. The Bucks CC website said the game was kicking off at 6.30pm. I arrived at the ground at 5.30pm and found most players were already there. I asked in the home dressing room and was told it was 6.30pm kick-off. As I was with a fellow traveller, we went off to the local pub for one drink, a diet coke for me or course. We knew that as we had been told it was 6.30pm and that it had been confirmed that no doubt it would kick-off at a different time. Arriving back at the ground at 6.10pm indeed the players were kicking in and we had a 6.15pm kick-off.

The evening was very nice but windy and by chance the far side of the ground was tree lined so I did not have to put up with the very cold wind. The game was almost relegated Bedgrove, second bottom (six points behind third bottom with two games left to play and a 20 odd goal difference to make up) against Bucks CC who lead the division by 6 points. The game was not bad but Bucks CC were head and shoulders above the homesters. In fact, a look at the league website showed that they are using some players that are of SML standard, a recent dispute had brought this to light though in fact Bucks CC had done everything above board in the matter.

Bucks took an early two goal lead, the home keeper seemed to be struggling with an injury and was replaced midway through the half. The replacement keeper looked as though he was the proper keeper as he came on as a sub with different coloured shorts. It would appear the kick-off had caught him out and he was late arriving at the game. Bucks lead 3-0 at the break though the homesters had missed a penalty but Bucks could have been 5 or 6 up.

I had to go back to the car at half-time as I had parked on the road (as parking is a bit tight in the ground) and asked the ref how long he was having for half-time, just 5 minutes he said just in case we have light problems.

The second half was the same as the first with Bucks CC being the far better side and despite only adding two more goals were always in control. To be fair they should have had double figures, they hit the woodwork a number of times, some of their misses were quite amazing and the replacement keeper pulled off some good saves. The game was played in a reasonable spirit; there was the odd bit of backchat and the ref did have to give a lecture at one point and book a player. At the end it was good to see everyone shaking hands and the away team almost saying sorry if we have relegated you.

The only team who can catch Bucks CC now are Walton Court Wanderers who are three points behind with two games left to play. Bucks CC have one game left, at home to Walton Court Wanderers next Saturday 27th April.

The Aylesbury League which was losing clubs a few years ago has certainly in recent seasons come on leaps and bounds. It now has 5 divisions with 10 or 11 clubs in each covering 4 counties. The league also runs a number of cups and/or it's club play in a number of cups which actually get good attendances and, in some cases, have teams from outside the league in them. Such cup as the Oving Village Cup, Marsworth Charity Cup and Thomas Field Shield (this has been won by OSL side Oakley this season) are held in high regard. This season due to the bad weather the league has not played the Supplementary Cup. They already have clubs enquiring to join next season.

Kimble has a station only half a mile from the ground; you can see the line from the ground and a 1950's green SMU went up and down it and have since found out this is used for training purposes. The views as expected are very good with the ground being in the shadow of the Chilton Hills just a few hundred yards onto the plain which is the Vale of Aylesbury. This was the first game I had seen in the Aylesbury League for a number of years that did not have Red Kites present. Usually at Aylesbury games you have a flying display by the said birds.

The ref who was worried about the light need not have worried. By the time I had got home having dropped off my passenger and having put the car in the garage the light was still just about good enough to play.

04/20