

TT No.57: Keith Aslan - Sat 24th January 2015; **Beccles Caxton v Bungay**; Anglian Combination Division 2; Kick-Off: 14.00; Result: 0-1; Admission & Programme: £2; Attendance: 68 (26 home, 31 away & 11 neutral).

Beccles is my kinda' town. Two football clubs both literally within 1 minute of the station, and the icing on the gateaux, a Greggs in the market square. If you have to live somewhere that isn't London, Beccles is about as good as it gets.

Having been to Bungay the previous week I was so impressed that I decided to follow them for their B1062 derby match at Beccles, although the home side issuing their first ever programme might have swayed my decision. How apposite that a club called Caxton should be printing a programme and I imagine Bill will be looking down on this game with quiet satisfaction that his invention is being put to such good use 500 years on.

Beccles Caxton nearly went out of business early in the season, but is now prospering thanks mainly due to effervescent chairman Mike Guymer. Without a manager or players, double digit defeats and no shows he's turned things around acquiring a quality manager who in turn has bought in plenty of players of the required standard. Although still bottom of the league, the fact they conceded 60 goals in their first 8 games and only 17 in their last 12 tells its own story.

If coming by train (hourly from Ipswich) you won't need a map for this one. Cross the footbridge from the platform and you're there. Beccles ground is on your right, and the lovely wrought iron gates leading to Beccles Caxton are on your left. The changing room block is behind the goal and next to it the old changing rooms have been transformed into a tea room. There is a dinky wooden stand straddling the half way line and the whole ensemble is in a pleasant rural setting with the added bonus for train-spotters of being adjacent to the station.

This was a bottom v top clash with Bungay chalking up their 10th consecutive victory. I said last week I don't understand quite how such an ordinary team have achieved such a feat, and after this game I still haven't sussed how they keep winning. In the first half you would be hard pressed to tell which team was heading the league and which team was bottom. Bungay did have more of the play in the second half but their only goal was through a penalty. (hotly disputed, but aren't they all).

Beccles Caxton are a superb club very much on the up, although talk of the Eastern Counties league is possibly a tad over ambitious. The programme editor is currently compiling a history of the club, and having been formed in 1890 there's plenty of it. He is intending to issue on a regular basis in spite of living in Great Yarmouth, hardly on the doorstep. A visit to this club will leave you with a nice warm feeling.

