

TT No. 13: *Steve Hardy* - Sat 19th November 2016; **Longlevens** v Burnham; Hellenic League Premier Division; Result: 1-0; Admission: £3 including programme; Attendance: 33? (My headcount was 16!)

Longlevens is a suburb of Gloucester, but the football club don't play there any more, having moved to their current ground in Barnwood in 2011. The Premier Division of the Hellenic League is step 5 in the pyramid system, and, as such, I was expecting a lot more of Longlevens's ground than they actually do have. For a start, you can watch the game without paying admission from outside the ground on three of the four sides, through wire mesh fencing. I was pretty sure that this was contrary to Hellenic League regulations, but I may be wrong on this. There is a low stand along one side of the pitch, and that is about it for spectator facilities. That said, the facilities are more than adequate given crowds in the upper teens which is what they had today.

On the pitch the team are safely in mid table, and today were playing bottom club Burnham, for whom Luther Blissett was supposed to be making his debut today as their new Manager. No sign of Watford's finest, but his team did put in a much-improved performance, without ever looking like getting a positive result. Longlevens bossed the first half, missed a penalty and then scored just before half time to lead 1-0. After the break, it was more of the same, although Burnham did play a lot better and could well have snatched an undeserved equaliser late on.

Finally, a word about the Longlevens's backroom staff. Wonderful! They couldn't do enough for the three hoppers who had descended on them from all over the UK, and they were a credit to their club.