

**TT No.44:** *Brian Buck* - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017; **Langleybury Cricket Club** v Bovingdon 'A'; West Herts Saturday League Division 2; Kick-Off: 2pm; Result: 4-3; Attendance: approx. 10

After the previous game, it was a relatively short drive to my next match. When I arrived here the small car park and the one on the opposite side of the road were full. So, I drove the short distance to the nearest pub and left the car in their car park. As I was well early, I dined in the pub before returning to watch the game. This kicked off 5 minutes early. Luckily, I was back in time to see the start. I would imagine that in summer and with all the trees in leaf, this would be a lovely place to watch football, or cricket of course. Rather like my morning game the pitch sloped both ways. Soon I was joined by the Bovingdon club chairman, who updated me on what is happening in his neck of the woods as regards the Herts Senior County League in which Bovingdon are doing very well. But he was really here to watch his son play, although the body language of his son told me that he wished he wasn't here. I told the chairman that I used to hate my father trying to get me to play golf better. All I really wanted to do was to give the golf ball a big thump!

Anyway, in an excellent match the hosts took the lead on 16 minutes with a 40 yarder. But Bovingdon were deservedly level from the spot 5 minutes later. Then after the ref came across to check me out at the break, with his body language saying to me 'are you an assessor if you are taking notes?', the second half started, now with light rain. I didn't really recognize who the Bovingdon linesman was at this point, but it turned out to be their chairman again, now wearing a baseball hat! On 65 minutes Langleybury took the lead. But this was thrown away after Bovingdon scored on 76 and 79 minutes. But on 81 minutes the hosts made it 3-3 from the spot and then four minutes later the Cricket Club won the match with a stunning 40-yard direct free kick, thereby improving their lowly position in the league and leaving Bovngdon stumped!