

**TT No.51:** *Brian Buck* - Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017; **Horsley v Laleham**; Surrey Elite Intermediate League; Kick-Off: 3pm; Result: 3-1; Attendance: 15 approx.

My next game saw me nip round the M25, slowly at times, to Junction 10 and the ground, just about in West Horsley, is a few miles from there. From a distance, it looks a bit like two or three converted horse paddocks and on my arrival, some 90 minutes before kick-off, the gates to the ground were being unlocked, by someone who knew the code and I was about the third car in. Soon loads of others appeared, including a taxi, owned by one of the players, who brought a load of his teammates with him. Once I confirmed that the match was going ahead, I nipped off to the local pub for my pre-match meal. It doubled up as a Thai Restaurant, but I didn't partake, just in case they told me that Thai's must be worn. I only had a new one on me!

I was back at the ground well before kick-off and as I sat in their now open clean looking bar, I wondered which pitch the match would be played on, as the both pitches, either side of the clubhouse, looked suitable. The one they didn't use was fully marked out, had corner flags out ready and was roped or taped off all round, even though no game was to take place on it today. But the pitch they did use had a ranch style fencing along one side and behind one goal. I don't think that spectators were allowed on the other two sides, but I stood on the opposite side and no one objected. The match official was being observed and I would say that his strong point was communication, very good for someone so young. Most of his decisions seemed right from what I could tell. However, on 21 minutes he booked a home player for not retreating quick enough after the keeper blasted the ball at him. He didn't actually see him do this because he had his back to the incident and furthermore, unless the booked player was a grey-hound he couldn't have moved back much quicker anyway. On 34 minutes Horsley took the lead with a well hit snapshot. On 65 minutes the lead was doubled from the spot after the keeper allegedly nudged an attacker off the ball. On 79 minutes Laleham pulled a goal back, also from the spot after a player was allegedly held down. This looked slightly more justified, but I wouldn't have awarded either of them or even given any free kicks. Towards the end Laleham faded and Horsley scored their final goal on 88 minutes. This turned out to be a decent game, played out in some pleasant unspoiled countryside.