

TT No.61: *Brian Buck* - Saturday 22nd April 2017; **Forest Row v Rotherfield**; Gray Hooper Holt LLP Mid-Sussex League Premier Division; Kick-Off: 11.00am; Result: 0-0; Att: 20 approx.

I was on the road at around 8.15am and arrived at the ground in sat nav time, just over two hours later. On my arrival, here in this seemingly sleepy village I found the ground at the end of a dead-end road and there were cars parked everywhere and nothing likely the peaceful place Google Street View showed it to be when I viewed it on the previous night. First thoughts were that it had something to do with the adjacent golf course, but when I finally found somewhere to park, I realized that it had more to do with the two youth-team matches already taking place here. Worryingly one of them was taking place where my match was due to take place. But both games were done and dusted some 15 minutes before the start, with the emphasis on 'dusted' because this was a very dry bumpy pitch. In fact, it was the kind of pitch which would be unplayable on a frosty day. Just goes to show how a swing of 15 degrees or so can mean the difference to a game being on or off! While I waited for the game to start, I had a cup of coffee from the tea bar. I could have had a bacon roll as well. Then I had a first. Did I want a free refill because the cup of I was given was rather small? I declined saying that I'd have it at half time instead. Big mistake, as the tea bar was here for the kids and not the adults and come half time it was closed! As for the match, despite the score-line, it was actually a decent game. Both sides wanted to win, even though there was little more than pride to play for. At the end both sides desperately tried to get the winner, but without success. Just one awkward incident for the ref not to deal with. On 28 minutes one of the keepers thumped an attacker when he got too closed to him in the box. Should have been a red card and a spot kick of course. But although words were said after the offended party complained, he showed no cards and turned what I consider to be a 'Nelson's blind eye' on the situation. Otherwise everyone was well behaved.