

TT No.63: *Brian Buck* - Saturday 22nd April 2017; **Millwall Lionesses** v Oxford United Women; FA Women's Super League 2 Spring Series; Venue: St Paul's Sports Ground, Rotherhithe - Fisher FC; Kick-Off: 5.30pm; Result: 2-0; Admn: £2 (concession); Programme: £2; Att: 144.

The actual attendance was more like the 90 I counted though! After the previous match had finished it took about an hour and twenty minutes to drive to my last match of the day, about 20 minutes longer than sat nav time. This was partly because the post code for the ground takes you near the ground but to a parallel road! Now in desperate need of sustenance I'd left it too late to get to a pub and had to settle for a large cup of tea and a Snickers as the plastic hot dogs weren't ready yet. Furthermore, I wanted to get a decent seat in the stand, as I was anticipating a much larger crowd than the one, we actually got. I'd seen two matches here before, on 26 June 2007, when the ground belonged to nearby Bacon's College. At that time, the ground had become neglected. The 3G surface, if you could call it that had become torn in places and badly resewn together in parts. Furthermore, the goal netting had become tangled and knotted. I saw two matches here that night, both the league matches in the City League Summer 2007. You don't need to know the teams. There would have been a third game, but the participants wisely stayed away. Meanwhile during the matches, I did see some kids were actually playing football on the pitch while play was going on down the other end! Fast forward 10 years and the place itself is looking really smart these days - the new 3G pitch looks great and spectator facilities are good with seating on one side and standing cover behind one goal. They also have a clubhouse. The capacity must be low though and I doubt if you could get more than 2,000 in the ground if that. As for the match, I enjoyed it as I sat in the late evening sunshine. It wasn't a great game. Bottom of the table Oxford put up a brave show and without really looking like having a shot themselves they did manage to defend quite well. Millwall took the lead on 35 minutes with a well hit first time shot, but overall, the scorer was out of form and was eventually subbed. The second goal came on 82 minutes, from the spot after a player was pulled down. Millwall would have scored loads more goals but their weak shooting was a feature of this match.