

TT No.68: *Brian Buck* - Saturday 29th April 2017; **Dunmow Rhodes** v Great Baddow Reserves; County Motor Works Vauxhall Mid-Essex League Division 1; Venue: High Easter Village Hall; Kick-Off: 11am; Result: 1-2; Attendance: 5 approx; Admission; Donation; Programme: No.

High Easter can be found somewhere in the middle of a triangle drawn between Bishop's Stortford, Braintree and Chelmsford. Dunmow play all their home games here as their old pitch in Dunmow is too small for them and is instead used by their various 26 youth teams. On the opposite side of the road to the ground is a vintage coach depot. On my arrival, I struggled to get a parking space because a recycling lorry was in the car park and was being loaded up to take away a load of the local's rubbish. Meanwhile Dunmow have got their feet under the table here and even have permanent dugout, painted in the green and yellow - the club's colours. Today I watched the game sat in one of them, as neither side could be bothered to walk across the pitch to use them. The match was being played in the morning because Dunmow's reserves were involved in a cup final in the afternoon and there was something on the game - if Great Baddow won then they would win the league. Unfortunately, the possibility of them not actually winning today generated its own baggage and they moaned at the ref a lot. Their world was further disturbed when on 30 minutes they went a goal down from the spot following a handball, disputed of course. At this point Baddow lost a bit of confidence, but it was restored when on 50 minutes they equalized after a header from a free kick hit the bar, with the rebound being headed home. Then two minutes later the eventual winner came their way, via a diagonal shot across the face of goal. Thereafter Dunmow gradually faded as Baddow gradually took over, even though at one point their manager had to remind one of his defenders that he was manager and not him! Pity the ref didn't reiterate his position to their players more though!