

TT1617-73

TT No.73: *Brian Buck* - Saturday 6th May 2017; **Luton Town** v Leyton Orient; EFL Youth Alliance Merit League 1; Venue: Luton Town Training Ground, Ely Way; Kick-Off: 11am; Result: 3-3; Attendance: 60 approx. Free admission and refreshments; Programme: No

I arrived here about 15 minutes before kick-off and there was just enough time for a pre-match 'cuppa'. Unlike some other venues tea and coffee are free here. In fact if you want something to drink then you have to boil the kettle yourself! Then it was a walk out to the pitch and the game was played out on one I hadn't seen a game played on before. Each season they rotate the pitches they play on and sometimes they play on different pitches during the season. This ground is the former home of Electrolux, who used to play in the South Midlands League. But apart from the pitches themselves nothing else remains of the old ground today. There was never any cover here and the old cricket style pavilion was pulled down some years ago and replaced by the current portakabins. The pitch wasn't too great here either. The thinking being that the club are going to move to their new training ground at Brache (not at Brache Sparta) for next season. But it seems that either the first team only will use it or if the club as a whole are to move there then the youth team won't now go until 2018/19. As for the game, this was a different Leyton Orient side to the one I saw play at Stevenage in the early part of the season. The reason for this is that most of that side now form the club's first team! However, this lot didn't disgrace themselves today. Luton took a 16th minute lead with a 40 yarder, doubling it on 27 minutes with a header from a corner. On 56 minutes Orient pulled a goal back by way of a direct free kick, which looked as though it was going wide, but at the last moment the ball curved its way into the net, in off the post. Three minutes later they equalized, from the spot, but six minutes later Luton regained the lead. However, on 88 minutes Orient deservedly equalized again.

04/20