

**TT No.82:** *Brian Buck* - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017; **Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester United**; Premier League; Result: 2-1; Attendance: 31,848 (Season ticket); Programme: £10! - Special edition.

So here it was, Spurs last ever match at White Hart Lane. I need to tell you that I was not especially emotional about this, but that has more to do with other things going on in my life. But I do agree with a fellow scribe who wrote that very little of the ground that he grew up in the 1970's (1960's for me) remains and it was those homely pre-war structures that he had genuine warmth and affection for. The concrete and steels stand's which replaced them felt soulless to him (pleasing on the eye to me). Only the Upper tier of the East Stand (where my seat is/was) remains from when my father first took me to the ground on 19 November 1960. Since that date, I have watched 1,636 matches at White Hart Lane and have seen 51.13% of all Spurs league matches ever played here since the 1908/9 season and have not missed any Spurs first team home match since 13<sup>th</sup> August 1969. Yes, I will miss it, but only because I don't like change. But the new ground is right next door and providing I get the seat I'm after in it, then things will quickly move on for the better. As for the game today, Spurs caught United in transition. They've done well enough to reach the final on the Europa League, but unless they win it, they won't be in the Champions league next season. Furthermore, I expect that there will be a lot of personnel changes between now and next season, as there was after Pochettino's first season. The unmarked Wanyama scored Spurs first goal on 6 minutes, heading home from a corner and Kane scored the last one, sticking out a leg to meet Eriksen's cross from a free kick on 48 minutes. Just a bit disappointing that Rooney scored the last ever goal on this pitch on 71 minutes though. The bulldozers started to tear it up next day! At the final whistle, I didn't stay for the post-match celebrations as I needed to get to church as quickly as possible. But when I belted down the stairs I and a few others found most of the exits still locked. So, after rushing along a few corridors I'd never been down before, eventually we found a small door in one of the big doors open and I was off!