

TT No.100: Brian Buck - Friday 9th March 2018; Fitzwilliam College v Girton College; Cambridge University League Cup Final; Venue: played at Cambridge University Rugby Club, Grange Road; Result: 6-1; Attendance: 175 approx.

This particular cup final is always worth watching mainly because they are always passionately supported by the attendees of the respective colleges taking part. But tonight, was a very wet one and on our way to the match I had serious doubts as to if the game would be on. But as we made our way along Grange Road, we could see the floodlights gleaming in the distance and we knew that we would be OK. Parking was quite easy here as most students don't have cars! There were also a number of Groundhoppers present and they will have been impressed not only by the glossy programme, but also by the fact that it was free!

Despite the rain, which persisted all night, the pitch stood up to it well, even though it became very sticky the longer the game went on and by the end one small part of it was slightly waterlogged. Tonight, most of the fans decamped to the large wooden stand on the far side of the pitch, meaning that there was plenty of seating on the clubhouse side and we chose to sit here, well out of the way of the occasional sophisticated chanting you get from the supposedly intelligent fans at this level. When you look at some of the famous names on the honours boards inside the clubhouse then it is rather frightening to think that we could be rubbing shoulders with someone who might become famous in the years to come!

However, it is doubtful if any of the Girton side will become famous footballers as they were soundly beaten here tonight. In the first half the goals against them slowly mounted up and by the break they were losing 5-0. It could have been 6-0 when on 20 minutes Fitzwilliam claimed that the ball had crossed the line, but the local VAR expert lino wasn't up with play! In the second period things were much more even, probably due to the usual reasons, but on 66 minutes Fitzwilliam did score again. Then right at the end Girton finally scored, if only from the spot. I was pleased that they did as although they got a tonking on a very wet night they never gave up.