

TT No.102: *Brian Buck* - Saturday 10th March 2018; **Costessey Sports** v Hempnall; Hadley & Ottaway Anglian Combination Division 3; Kick-Off: 2.30pm; Result: 2-5; Attendance: 10 approx.

After the previous match had finished, we made our way unhurriedly to our other game today and drove past the pitch where we could see both teams warming up some 15 minutes before kick-off. The reason for this was that there was a pub just up the road to tick off! This came in handy as on our return we found that there were no spectator refreshments of any sort available! This was slightly surprising in some respects as the changing rooms formed part of a newish looking village hall which had meeting rooms upstairs and I think also houses the Parish Council meetings. Downstairs there were some people doing some form of exercise. I didn't pursue this much as it brings me out in a sweat! But no food or drink though!

Bearing in mind all the overnight rain we'd had, which caused some local postponements, the pitch here was in good condition, something which couldn't be said for quite a few of the participants today. The football pitch was in a large recreational public park and along one boundary there was a goodly number of flowering daffodils, which gave my watching friend an idea for Mother's Day, next day. That was until my other watching friend gave her husband a gentle slap! As the game progressed we learned that Costessey are bottom of this division, but this fact didn't register immediately as the visitors weren't that hot either. However, they did take the lead on 8 minutes, with a goal scored by the most unfit looking player on the pitch. The match moved on and after Hempnall created a few more chances the hosts came into it and equalised on 37 minutes. However, five minutes later Hempnall regained the lead via a header from a deep cross. Around about this time we had the 'idiot with a dog' scenario! The ball went out of play towards this bloke and his dog, the latter not being on a lead, or the former come to that! The dog got to the ball first and started to play with it. The bloke then got it and kicked it slowly back to the pitch. The dog chased the ball on the pitch, before someone sensible removed it from him. During the break and at the start of the second half we had some rain, but it didn't last long. In this period the hosts folded quickly after conceding goals on 47 and 54 minutes. Then on 78 minutes the ref gave the visitors a penalty for a push, but neither side knew anything about this and until he made himself clear they assumed that he had given a goal kick. That was converted and then right at the end the hosts managed to score again. Not a great game but it brought to a close a decent day out if you take both games into account.