

TT No.117: *Brian Buck* - Saturday 7th April 2018; **Pen Mill Athletic** v Charlton United; Yeovil & District League Division 1; Venue: played at Yeovil Sports & Social Club, Coronation Avenue; Result: 11-1; Attendance: 10.

You may wonder why I picked out this game today, bearing in mind that this wasn't even a match in the Premier Division in this league. Well it was because I was given a lift by my passionate Luton Town friend and they were playing at Yeovil Town FC. We got there in good time even though we had the customary 20-minute delay going past Stonehenge where the goal posts seem to get smaller each time, I see them. Then after stopping off for a quick slurp we made it to my game, where my driver parked up and walked the 20 minutes it took to get him to his match.

Soon after my arrival the players appeared for this 2pm kick-off. The first thing some of the hosts players did was to inspect the hedge on the far side of the pitch! Most of the spectators were present at kick off and the women outnumbered the men by six to four and one of them was the ref's partner and/or friend. The match, played out on a very bumpy pitch was quite enjoyable and was even until the hosts took the lead on 14 minutes. Thereafter the game slowly slipped away from the visitors and it was 4-0 by the break. At half time I went into the clubhouse where the bar lady told me that nearly all the rolls (which would be on sale after the match), had gone. Did I want the last one reserved for me? "Yes please, but what about the players?" "Oh, they can go without!".

On my return to the playing area, I could see the floodlights from the Yeovil Town FC ground, which were switched on and on occasions I could hear bits of noise coming from that game. Meanwhile back at my game and at about the same time as Charlton switched their keeper over, allowing their rather rotund original to become as an outfield player, two blokes walked round the pitch, one of them pushing a pram. Where did they stop? Yes, you've guessed it. Right in front of me! It wasn't worth telling them to piss off, so I just moved away. But a few minutes later they moved on anyway. After Pen Hill took the score up to 6-0 by the 59th minute the ref gave them a spot kick, but quickly realising that he got the teams mixed up he booked a Pen Mill player instead. Then Pen Mill changed their keeper as well. Then on 76 minutes he gave Charlton a penalty, which was scored by their subbed keeper! After this, Pen Mill rattled in another five goals before the end, thus taking them to the top of the table.

The game had been played in a great spirit by both sides throughout, but just after the final whistle some home players spotted a lady with a dog, which belonged to the partner/friend of one of the Charlton players. They were reminded that they had already been told at half time that dogs were not allowed in the grounds and to remove it immediately. The response from the Charlton player is not printable! Thereafter I spent the next hour or so in the bar with a nice bloke, a Westland Sports fan, who would have been watching his team play in the Somerset Senior

Cup Semi Final today (lost 2-0), had the local paper put the fixture in the paper!
Then my friend returned (won 3-0) and we went home. A nice day out, bearing in
mind that I had no great expectations in advance of this match!

04/20