

TT No. 122: *Brian Buck* - Tuesday 17th April 2018; **Albury** v FC St Johns; Hertford & District ORC Sports League Division 2; Venue: played at Brewery Field, Furneux Pelham; Result: 0-5; Attendance: 7.

When I saw that Albury had a home match tonight, my eyes lit up, as theirs is a ground I have been trying to visit for a few years now, but the combined factors of them not playing at home midweek much and me being unavailable, meant that our paths had never crossed, when they are the home side. So tonight, was supposed to be the night. But on checking out the match just after lunchtime I found out that my dream was to remain unfulfilled as the game had been switched to Furneux Pelham, as most games apparently have this season as the facilities at Albury got broken into and were trashed. There seems no likelihood of a quick return either, as the place was not insured and there appears to be no desire to repair it. But then you wonder why they still don't play there, as tonight's venue was basically a pitch in a field, named the Brewery Field, probably because it may belong to The Brewery Tap pub, just up the road. There are no dressing rooms here (to vandalise), and so most players just parked near the pitch and got changed in their cars, well outside them actually, because this was quite a nice night.

The pitch sloped up and down and slightly more so side to side. As I inspected the River Ash down the bottom, I commented to two players who soon joined me that it wasn't looking that full. "We know," said one of the players, "We've come to help fill it up!" and they did! I knew the ref tonight. It was Bobby Scarth. We go back a long way, as some 45 years ago and counting, I used to watch Bobby play regularly for the Spurs Youth sides. He never got into the first team though. Perhaps the fact that he is almost totally deaf didn't help. As for the match, it was easily won by the top of the table visitors and two of their goals were scored, firstly from about 45 yards out and secondly from the halfway line. This 40-minutes each way match was played in a good spirit apart from a suitcase incident just before the end when a stricter ref might have sent off three players!

04/20