

TT No.126: *Brian Buck* - Saturday 21st April 2018; **Borden Village** v Metrogas; Andreas Carter Kent County League Premier Division; Result: 5-1; Attendance: 30 approx.

I travelled to the game by train and then walked the two miles it took to get to the ground from Sittingbourne station. This was mainly uphill and it took me an unhurried 40 minutes. Although I was told that this game was on before I left home, I had some unfounded concerns when I arrived at there. True, the pitch had been mowed and marked out, but with there being just 90 minutes to go before kick-off, there was no one else around, apart from a few families enjoying the sunshine on this very hot day. Then someone appeared with a pair of boots. He looked very young, but he told me he plays for Borden. Then some cars appeared and it was the Metrogas team. This was enough to convince me that things were going to happen and so I headed off to the nearby pub for lunch, mulling over the prospect of this seemingly David and Goliath encounter.

But on my return, a few minutes before kick-off, everything was ready and the pitch was partially roped off. The flat pitch is cut out of a steep hill and if you stand at the top of the hill behind one goal then you get a panoramic view of the Isle of Sheppey in the distance. There were some horses in the field behind the other goal. The ground is called Borden Playstool. No one I asked knew anything about the 'Playstool' bit and I can only assume that perhaps in medieval times the local kids liked dancing around a pile of dog's poo!

For a game between two mid table sides, with nothing much to play for, both sides gave it their all. Despite the final score-line possession was generally even throughout, as were the chances created, excluding the goals of course. The hosts were 3-1 up at the break and after we had 30 minutes play, the jovial ref stopped play for a water break, causing one of the players to protest, "This isn't ***** cricket!" The second half saw Borden score twice more before Metrogas, (literally) ran out of gas. Then the downhill walk to the station was completed in just half an hour, to complete a good day out with the good burgers of Borden, except that they just had bacon rolls today!