

TT No.141: *Brian Buck* - Monday 7th May 2018; **Bedford Albion** v Wilstead Reserves; Bedfordshire County League Division 2; Venue: played at Woodlands, Ashmead Road, Bedford; Kick-Off: 2.30pm; Result: 4-2; Attendance: 25 approx.

We arrived at this new ground, for me, about 15 minutes to go before kick-off and the place was a hive of activity. Part of this was down to the fact that there were two games going on here, as Bedford Albion Reserves were at home as well. However, that game nearly didn't take place as the visitor's kit hadn't arrived. Eventually it did though and they started about 25 minutes late. On a warm sunny day, as this was, this was a nice rural place to watch football albeit on the edge of a newly built housing estate. But although it hadn't rained for five days some of the pitch surrounds were a big boggy though. We watched the match from a raised bank on one side of the pitch, but out of sight of the reserve match, which took place out of sight, down a dip and through a hedge.

The match was slightly curious in that the hosts, the league champions, were keen to win by as many goals as possible, whereas the visitors, the league runners up, seemed more intent on having a bit of a laugh, perhaps playing some players out of position. So, it was no great surprise when Albion took the league after 3 minutes. Then on 15 minutes a Wilstead player was subbed and a bit miffed about it. "I haven't even warmed up yet!" he claimed. Seven minutes later the ref stopped the match for a water break, which was interpreted as a fag break by some Wilstead players and was that actually water some of them were drinking? Anyway, play resumed and by the break it was 3-0 to Albion. Then Wilstead pulled a goal back on 48 minutes and then they started to take the match a bit more seriously. On 72 minutes Albion claimed their fourth goal before Wilstead scored their second on 87 minutes. After this game had finished, we watched the last knockings of the reserve match after which both Albion teams came together to be presented with League Championship cup and medals by the Beds County League Vice Chairman, Peter Francis.