

TT No.29: *Brian Buck* - Saturday 9th September 2017; **AFC Solihull** v Enville Athletic; Midland League Division 3 (played at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre, Solihull); Result: 1-2; Attendance: 32.

By now I was in possession of a courtesy car as my own car was at Columbo's, as I like to call it. They seem to spot things wrong with it that no one else can. So, my view that all that was needed was some gear box oil translated into over a thousand pounds of work in their eyes! So, I decided to take my replacement car for a bit of a spin today, on the basis of, why bugger up your own car when you can bugger up someone else's instead?

Anyway, I arrive at the ground just under two hours from home. Then it was time for food in the Leisure-Centre, but no alcohol today. When I returned the £2-programmes were available. A free cup of tea or coffee comes with it, but this didn't make the programme, taste any better. They make this offer to try and encourage people to pay to get in! I then took my place in the stand which had plenty of wooden seats, needed when we had a bit of rain later on. The pitch was in the middle of a running track, but the view wasn't that bad. On the other side of it there was an advert which read 'Sign manufacturers for over 65-year's'. Fine for me, but what if someone under 65 years old wants one?

This was a match between two sides who had yet to win a league match prior to today. The game was almost over by the 12th minute, by which time Enville were leading 2-0. Things were going quite well until shortly before the break when the visiting keeper came out of his area and flattened the home forward, to stop him from scoring. He only got a yellow card for this, but the squabbles went on for some time. Then the ref ran over to the home bench and spoke to the manager. The reason for this was revealed by him during the break as he joined us for 'tea' rather than give his losing side a stiff team talk. He told us that he was too angry to do this. He then revealed that the female lino had complained that she had received 'gender based' abuse from one of the home players, but apparently couldn't be sure which one it was. The manager then told the ref that the camera around his neck was switched on and was recording everything he had said to him! Fortunately, things calmed down after the break. The football got better and Solihull managed to pull a goal back on 54 minutes from the spot.