

**TT No.39:** *Brian Buck* - Tuesday 26th September 201; **CB Hounslow United** v Eversley & California; Cherry Red Records Combined Counties League Premier Challenge Cup 1st Round; Result: 5-2; Attendance: 55.

A rare new midweek ground under floodlights for me this evening, almost a year ago to the day, my driver informed me and I remain very grateful to him for carting me around from time to time. We left early enough to deal with any problems the M25 might throw at us, but for once we didn't encounter any traffic hold ups and we arrived in time to have a quick slurp in a pub near the ground. This was one of those places where there seemed to be more cars than people. CB Hounslow United are now playing at their new ground, called The Lair, Green Lane, Hounslow after spending many years at Osterley Sports Club. With a few minor alterations needed this ground is geared up for Step 3 & 4 football and the hosts are rightly proud of their achievements. Getting hold of any spare land in London is difficult enough in its own right. To make a success of it is even more difficult. I didn't venture inside the clubhouse, so the two outstanding features for me were the stand, from which you could get a good elevated view of proceedings and the pitch. With apologies to other grounds-men who also produce great pitches, this one was simply the best I've seen outside the Football League. It was truly flat and the grass coverage on it was so good that I had to look twice to make sure that it wasn't a 3G pitch. There were two flies in the ointment though. Firstly, the planes going in, or coming out of Heathrow Airport. They were so deafening as they passed above us. I'm not sure if the ref would be heard if he were trying to speak to a player when one came across. Secondly, we had the obligatory noisy young kids sitting in front of us. They were no serious problem really, but we moved away from them because they were irritating me! As for the game it turned out to be a good one. Both sides behaved themselves and gave the match officials no hassle at all. So, this was great for people who just want to watch football as a sport, like me. The score was 2-2 at half time, with Hounslow equalised about a minute after Eversley scored each time. After the break Hounslow slowly moved the game away from the visitors with three further goals, the last one being a follow up header after the taker of a spot kick had his effort saved.