

TT No.46: *Brian Buck* - Wednesday 18th October 2017. **Coventry United v Highgate United; Birmingham Senior Cup 1st Round; Venue: played at Butts Park Arena, Coventry; Kick-Off: 7.45pm; Result: 3-5; Attendance: 65.**

More like 125! We arrived here with just under an hour before kick off after surviving the Coventry inner ring road, which makes the Monaco Grand Prix circuit look like a doddle in comparison. Anyway, we purposely avoided having to pay to park in the spacious car park behind the goal by parking outside a real ale pub in a road next to the ground and said car park instead. Unsurprisingly we felt obliged to go in the pub while we were there! We returned in good time for the match. I'd already purchased the glossy programme, 50p tonight, soon after we parked up. Then came the shock. It was £7 (Adults) and £6 (Concessions) to get in and this was for a Step 5 level game! This was my only gripe of the night though. We then made our way to the seats and we sat high up in the 3,000-seater stand. If relations continue to deteriorate at the Ricoh then Coventry City are thinking of moving here. If so then there is plenty of space to develop the ground, although rugby is also played here at present and is used by Coventry RFC and Coventry Bears, I believe. Also, a railway line passes behind one goal and it was good to see a few trains pass by as the game progressed. Initially the floodlights looked a bit dingy. But just as the match started so more came on and suddenly the lux value doubled and the brightness of them was excellent. As for the game I got the impression that this was a cup competition which neither side was too fussed about winning. So, both sides went for it, without worrying too much about defending, just like football used to be! In the first half the lead changed hands three times. Highgate opened the scoring, before Coventry scored twice. But it was 3-2 to Highgate by half time. After the break Highgate soon extended their lead and then both sides scored again with roughly 15 minutes left. Overall a decent night out in a part of Coventry where the lights of the tall surrounding flats overlook the ground, bringing a slight feel of Canary Wharf to the place.