

TT No.63: *Brian Buck* - Monday 13th November 2017. **Aveley** v Barking; Bostick League North; Result: 0-1; Attendance: 241.

This season Aveley have moved from their historic ground at Millfield to their new premises at Parkside. Which is about a ten-minute walk away, as people who came by public transport found out tonight. The bus stop is very close to the old ground and therefore catching the 9.55pm bus back to Rainham station is no longer easy, especially like this match the game finishes after 9.45pm! We arrived at the ground overly early because there weren't any real problems on the nearby M25. In fact, we were so early that our admission money was collected from the bar without the need for us to pass through the turnstiles. As for the ground the clubhouse side was very similar to that of Barnet's new ground at The Hive. Most of the money seems to have been spent on this part, which looks exceptionally impressive. However, it has only 268 seats in it and for a main stand you would expect it to have more if they eventually reach the Football League. Otherwise it's very clean and tidy, as you would expect and there is further seating on the far side, giving them 424 seats overall. Something else which was impressive was the LED floodlights. We saw them switched on and they came on instantly, without the need for them to warm up and in this respect, it was like switching on the lights at home.

The game itself wasn't great. If Aveley don't watch out, then they could get relegated. The first half was roughly even, although Aveley did create more chances than Barking, although the latter did have a shot which crashed down off the crossbar, with some thinking that it had crossed the line. In the second half Barking were soon in the ascendancy and on 54 minutes they scored the only goal of the game with a narrow-angled shot into an empty net with the keeper AWOL. Thereafter Aveley struggled with their creativity and passing while Barking looked composed. By now the ref was showing lots of cards and the Aveley captain was lucky to only get one. The ref kept control though, apart from when the ball hit and he failed to trap it! Overall a clean and tidy new ground, but viewing facilities will need to be improved if they start to get big crowds.