

TT No.65: *Brian Buck* - Saturday 18th November 2017; **Attenborough** v Newark Flowserve; Precision Notts Senior League Premier Division; Result: 1-3; Attendance: 25 approx.

Today there were engineering works, so no trains ran via Grantham. This had various advantages, not in the least was that my trains weren't overloaded with distant relatives of Mrs. Thatcher. Also, as the train from Peterborough to Nottingham was non-stop, I was able to get a decent sleep both ways. At Nottingham I caught a train to Attenborough an hour earlier than I needed to. So, I got off at Beeston and walked along to the end of the platform, through a gate and into one of the best real ale pubs you'll find in this area. After having a couple of pints and something to eat I caught the next train to Attenborough an hour later. Then after a less than ten-minute walk I was at the ground. There were programmes here, but they were dated a month in advance by mistake. But it did come with a free cup of coffee. Did they want me to dip the programme in it?

The people here were very nice and, later on, I had a good chat to their secretary. I also knew the lovely Zoe, the secretary of Newark Flowserve. I'd met her on my visit to their ground a couple of seasons ago. They started this match top of the league, having won all their previous 11 games. So, an away win was expected as Attenborough were bottom of this division. The first half was tense. Flowserve were all over the hosts, but couldn't score. Attenborough were feeling the pressure but failed to take confidence from the fact they had actually stopped the visitors from scoring in this period. Unsurprisingly the bespectacled ref bore some of the blame for Flowserve's failure to score and on 38 minutes he stopped the game to speak to their bench. The home number 6 standing near me tried to encourage him to get on with it. I pointed out to him that the ref was probably one of the best refs in the league and this is what happens if you misbehave. He grunted, ran off and shouted "Pervert!" I think that this was directed at me rather than this ref. If so then I would just like to point out that I'm not fully qualified yet! Anyway, in the second half it took Flowserve just 29 seconds to take the lead, increasing it on 65 and 81 minutes. But although Attenborough had lost confidence by now, they did get the last goal with the last kick of the game. They also had one booking in this period. Guess who the recipient was?