

TT No.67: *Brian Buck* - Tuesday 28th November 2017. **Leicester Nirvana v Blackstones;** ChromaSport & Trophies United Counties League Knock Out Cup Quarter Final; Result: 5-2; Attendance: 14.

This was a cold night to recomplete the UCL by paying my first visit to Hamilton Park. Travel wise the evening went quite well, and once I got onto the A47, off the A1 we were at the ground, which is on the north east side of Leicester, less than an hour later. It was too cold to hang around, so it was straight into the bar. In fact, you could have watched the whole match from here. We were quite early and as we waited for the game to start a few more people turned up, but none of them hung around outside either. Then with about three minutes to go before kick-off, everyone moved out of the bar ready for the kick off. It was at this point that we realized, that us meagre few in the bar constituted the crowd! But although the official crowd was given as 14, I did count about 32 people watching.

Unfortunately, though they had picked the same night to play as Leicester City were playing Spurs about four miles away. So, with a decent team in town tonight for a change (even though Spurs lost 2-1) it was no real surprise that the attendance was so low. However, for a side that could potentially win the UCL Premier Division, attendances haven't been correspondingly high even for league matches. One way in which they could make some money is by serving mole-burgers, as we noticed plenty of molehills as we walked from the clubhouse to the pitch. The pitch wasn't that great on the side we were sitting. We were told that the water drains down the hill onto this part of the pitch. So, it was a bit disappointing to note that one of the teams had done their warm-up exercises on this boggy part! The touch line was so wet that the lino on this side started the game six-foot tall and finished it measuring somewhere around five feet six inches! He was actually thinking of lining it from the concrete walkway where no one was standing! As for the match it was ultimately as one sided as the score-line suggests. But Blackstones didn't disgrace themselves and they worked hard to only concede four goals in the first half and then scoring themselves just before the break. They also scored the last and best goal of the evening on 64 minutes when the scorer ran on and blasted the ball home from about 25 yards out. Apart from the cold this was a decent evening out.