

TT No.68: *Brian Buck* - Saturday 2nd December 2017; **AFC Hoxne** v Ransome Sports; Touchline Suffolk & Ipswich League Senior Division; Kick-Off; 2pm; Result: 2-0; Attendance: 20 approx.

Hoxne, pronounced either 'Hoxney' or 'Hoxon' depending on who you listen to, is roughly six miles east of Diss. With Diss Town being at home we decided to visit AFC Hoxne so we could take in the second half at Diss once that had finished. We arrived at the ground in good time to allow us to visit a couple of pubs before kick-off. Both of them were full of country folk, but I reckon that they were all in fancy dress! I can't believe that away from the pub they would want to dress like this, in their checked shirts, waist coats and whatever. Seems to me that they put this clobber on just to try and prove that they are real country people. I bet that during the week they all work in the City!

Anyway, back at the ground it was all systems go and I managed to down a couple of hot beef slices before the start, feeling a bit guilty in doing so because when my friend asked for one at half time, they were all sold out! Anyway at least we both got a programme which was by donation, otherwise free. Newly promoted Hoxne had started the season well, but had slipped down the table in recent weeks. Meanwhile Ransomes have taken a lot of big tonkings this season, to the point where they are not only bottom of the league but recently, they nearly folded. They have kept going and although they lost again today the margin of defeat will have given them confidence. This was something the enthusiastic president of Hoxne was not short of as he regaled us with stories of his life experiences throughout the afternoon! Hoxne took the lead on 31 minutes, doubling it on 67 minutes, shortly after the visiting manager nearly got sent off for overly voicing his opinions after a mini hand-bags incident. Earlier his keeper had nearly knocked himself out when he managed to punch a long shot into his own face. After this game we went off to Diss Town, where we saw most of the second half, which included all of the goals scored in their 2-1 win against King's Lynn Reserves.