

TT No.9: Brian Buck - Saturday 1st July 2017. **Briston** v Schoolhouse; Nick Raven Shield Final; Result: 2-2 (Briston won 4-3 on penalties) (6.30pm kick off)
Attendance: 100 approx.

After the previous match at the Haverhill Borough 3G pitch had finished we made an unhurried hour and three quarters trip to Briston, which is roughly 10 miles east of Fakenham. Here I was soon seized upon by the avid local photographer who according to his blog is Wealdstone's official photographer and five minutes later I was busy having my picture taken and very nice it looked too when I saw it. There was just time to nip off to the local chip shop and to wash it down with something from the bar before the game started. This competition was held in memory of popular and well-known local man Nick Raven, who did a lot of corporate work for Norwich City before he died following a brain tumour.

There are a number of miniature shields on the main shield and so it seems that this competition, involving 8 sides this year, will become an annual event. The game was a physical one: "something Schoolhouse didn't like," the Briston people told me. Although they are a successful Norfolk Sunday side they apparently don't like being tackled. Briston, under the leadership of their young excitable manager, "like to get a few challenges in." Things went well for the most part. Briston took a 34th minute lead, doubling it on 69 minutes with a tremendous 30- yarder. But within a minute Schoolhouse pulled a goal back. Then the problems started. On 78 minutes, the Schoolhouse keeper fouled a Briston player near the corner flag and the 'middle of the pitch' ref sent him off. Schoolhouse didn't like this and started to walk off the pitch. Eventually they were persuaded to return and after the ref agreed to overturn his red card the game continued. Then on 90(+5) minutes Schoolhouse equalised. Eventually this half lasted 62 minutes. Then it was on to spot kicks where Briston prevailed. The order they were taken seemed to vary though and, later on, I found out that this was the new ABBA system they are trialing in some areas this season. So, this was *The Name of the Game!*

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