

TT No.96: Brian Buck - Saturday 17th February 2018. **Brockworth Albion v Taverners**; Gloucestershire Northern Senior League Division 1; Result: 0-1; Attendance 35 approx.

Today I once again had the advantage of getting a lift to this game and we even found a pub close to ground so we could both have a quick slurp before we went off to our respective games. Me more so and a couple of pints of some 7.3% strength cider went down a treat. But I didn't have enough of it to make my game more enjoyable though! I'd been to a Brockworth Albion home match before, on 22 April 1995 when I watched them beat Dowty Dynamos 8-0 in a match in the same league and division as today's game, (attendance: 25 approx.). That match was played at Brockworth Rugby Club, a 200-yard uphill walk away and I don't remember much about that match and I am not inclined to dig out my article about that game from a programme in my loft to find out more!

Since then the club have been in and out of the Gloucester County League and apparently, they only moved to the rugby club to satisfy GCL requirements. The Mill Lane Playing Fields, where they played today, is their spiritual home and as I sourced a cup of coffee at half time, I noticed that the current pavilion was opened as recently as 8 November 2014 by Sir Geoff Hurst, who apparently lives near Cheltenham these days. The visitors today were also a GCL side for many years and their ground backs onto Forest Green Rovers. As for the match, it was played out on a very bumpy pitch which wasn't roped or railed off and quite frankly the first half was one of the worst 45 minutes I've seen for many a year. Nothing really happened, although I did log three goal scoring attempts by the hosts. They also had the first of their two bookings today, given by a decent ref, despite the fact that he seemed to have a spare match ball stuffed up his jumper! In the second half things carried on in much the same way. But after both sides had a shot and Brockworth got their second booking, Taverners finally broke the deadlock on 72 minutes. With most of the Brockworth players stranded upfield, Taverners broke away and a square pass to the scorer just inside the area, I think, saw something noteworthy happen at last! Thereafter the game sprang into life, or as close as it was ever going to get and as the sun set the warmth of this sunny afternoon disappeared, so both sides finally gave it a bit of a go. By the end it was another tick in the book at least!