

TT No.11: *Brian Buck* - Saturday 18th August 2018; **Barnet v Milton Keynes Dons; EFL Youth Alliance U18 South East Division; Venue: played at Barnet Training Ground, The Hive; Result: 2-0; Kick-Off: 10.30am; Attendance: 60 approx.**

I stopped off here on the way to watch Spurs play at Wembley afterwards and managed to park quite close to the ground. Barnet first team played Ebbsfleet United later on here and I was surprised that there were no street parking restrictions. Since my last visit here, during last season, the club have erected a 250-seater stand on the side of their 'Showcase' pitch. It wasn't an 'Atcost' one either and I counted ten rows of seats. There was a tarpaulin cover for the roof. This is the first time I have encountered a club at this level doing this for spectators, made even more surprising that some clubs won't even let you in to watch their youth games! That is except for FA Youth Cup ties where they can extract some money from you.

Anyway, I watched the game from the new stand and at this stage of the day it was a bit on the chilly side. From here I could see 'Flagman' going about his business. I've seen him here before when Barnet first team are at home. For reasons unknown he attaches flags from loads of nations along a fence, his idea of bringing people from different countries together I suppose. Anyway, as for the game, it was watchable, but it never reached any great heights. Barnet took the lead on 34 minutes with a long, low shot which the keeper saw late. Prior to that the Dons had just shaded it as being the better side, but in truth there wasn't much in it. But the goal spurred Barnet on and they became the better side for the remainder of the half. After the break the Dons gave it a real go, but Barnet, aided by their irritating timewasting keeper, held firm. The visitors' real problem though was that they seemed to be in too much of a rush and it got them nowhere. A second Barnet goal on 76 minutes, a far post header, finished them off and by the end Barnet had picked up their first win of the season with the Dons yet to break their duck.