

TT No. 119: Brian Buck - Saturday 16th March 2019; **Desborough & Rothwell United** v Wollaston Victoria; Northants Combination Premier Division; Venue: played at Mawsley Community Centre; Result: 7-4; Attendance: 20 approx.

With there being heavy overnight rain, it seemed prudent to wait until Saturday morning before deciding where to go today. So it was that my preferred mode of travel, by train, was ruled out and therefore today was a car job. I was further handicapped by the fact that I am quickly running out of grounds I have been to within 90 minutes of home. Also, these days it's becoming difficult to get hold of some club secretaries because leagues are starting to withhold their contact details. So, I actually checked out one match with a helpful ref. But then I got a call back telling me that one of my selections was actually on and so that's where I went.

Perhaps slightly surprisingly the hosts these days don't play in either Desborough or Rothwell, as the league have decreed that their ground, in Desborough I think, does not meet the leagues requirements. So, they now play in Mawsley, some five or six miles south of Kettering. "it's a bit of a bugger really," commented a home official! Mawsley didn't exist 17 years ago and is just shown as fields on my 1979 *Ordnance Survey* map. Then the local farmer sold a chunk of land, to developers, big enough to create a small village and so Mawsley was formed. It's very pleasing on the eye, even if it's a sad state of affairs when these days large housing estates can be built almost anywhere with no regard whatsoever to the environment or the countryside in general.

Anyway, I found the Mawsley Community centre easily enough, which also doubles up as anything you want really. It has changing rooms, meeting rooms and just as importantly (to me), a bar, of which I was here early enough to make use of. The game was the most extraordinary one I've seen for some time and was played out in an extremely strong wind. In fact, at one point I nearly got blown over, but that might have had something to do with the cider I'd been drinking beforehand! Anyway, the wind was behind Wollaston in the first half, who were playing their last match of the season and after 20 minutes they were leading 4-0. There was seemingly nothing the hosts could do about it, because the wind was so intense. If Wollaston made a mistake it was in thinking that they had the game won. But they were wrong as by the time 20 minutes of the second half had been played the score was 4-4! But things got worse for the visitors as on 69 minutes the hosts keeper scored with a long-range clearance and four minutes after that an overhead kick made it 6-4 to Desborough. This was too much for one Wollaston player and two yellows in a matter of minutes, both for fouls, saw him dismissed. Then the hosts scored their final goal on 81 minutes, thus evoking memories of the Southern League match I saw at Underhill on Cup Final evening 1972, when Cambridge City were leading Barnet 3-0 after 15 minutes. It was 5-3 to Barnet by half time and

they went on to win 8-3! Dreadful conditions today, but a cracking game of football.

04/20