

TT No. 12: *Brian Buck* - Wednesday 22nd August 2018; **Needingworth United** v Great Chishill; Kershaw League Senior B Division; Result: 0-0; Attendance: 45 approx.

This game wasn't great! No changes whatsoever have been made to anything here since my last visit a few years back. So, you still park in what looks like a Crematorium car park and then that feeling continues as you then walk 50 yards or so down a tarmacked path until you reach the ground, which suddenly opens up in front of you. You soon see the clubhouse and within it is the tea bar. The pitch is still railed-off on two sides and the floodlights were all working, six lights on each side, which illuminated the pitch quite well.

It was a warm night tonight with no wind, but with no covered accommodation, save perhaps the overhang of the clubhouse if the wind is blowing in the right direction, it would be no fun here on a wet and windy night! The match was a curious one in that initially it seemed it would be a good one. The teams were evenly matched, ultimately too evenly matched and in the first half possession was roughly even. The visitors build up play was just slightly better, but they were rebuffed by the hosts who had a more physical presence about them. The only real noteworthy happening was on 36 minutes when the ref seemed to get hit in the face by the ball. He was on the floor for a few minutes but eventually got up and was able to complete the match. Don't know what happened to his whistle but every time he farted it was a free kick!

At the break I got myself some coffee and chocolate. This was surprisingly cheap. The chap serving me, the club secretary I think, said that he only deals in multiples of 50p. Therefore, my two items cost £1! The second half panned much the same way as the first half, although I think that there was a bit more urgency about both sides play now. But ultimately, they tired and moaned at the ref a lot. This led to lots of mistakes being made, by the players and the ref. Most of it though was the normal stuff we regrettably see too much of these days and I don't think that the ref took it personally. So, a poor game, but there was enough going on to hold my attention, just!