

TT1819-127

TT No. 127: *Brian Buck* - Saturday 30th March 2019; **Sandbach United** v Carlisle City; Hallmark Security League (NWCL) Division 1 Cup Semi Final 2nd Leg; Result: 5-1; Attendance: 70 (115 headcount).

Today I was once again grateful to get a lift. We got here in good time to nip into a micro-brewery, a very small pub, beforehand. Then my friend dropped me off at the top of the Nantwich Road before he went on to Runcorn Linnets. From here it took me about ten minutes to walk to the ground, the last part being along a disused railway track, part of which splits the car park from the ground.

Today's match was played on grass but behind the clubhouse there was a 3G pitch complete with a seated stand on the halfway-line. There was also a vet's match taking place on another pitch. Before the match started there was time for further refreshments from the cosy bar while I waited for the game to start. Facilities are at a premium here. The required 50-seater stand is placed behind the goal, close to a corner flag and along this side there are also two wooden stands, which look home made to me. The other three sides of the ground are hard standing and the far side was out of bounds.

Sandbach were 4-2 up from the first leg, but City gave it a go and were deservedly winning 1-0 at the break. However, in the second half the hosts responded by rattling in five goals without reply. Just one amusing incident in that in this period City appealed for a handball. Everyone could see that it was, but the ref said that it hit the players knee! After the match I returned to the bar and suddenly the place came alive. By the end of the day this had been a decent day out in rural up market, Cheshire.

04/20