

TT No.141: Brian Buck - Saturday 20th April 2019; Chesterton v Hanborough; Oxfordshire Senior League Division 1; Kick-Off: 2pm; Result: 2-1; Attendance: 90 approx.

By the time I arrived here I'd already seen a game today, at Stokenchurch, which was one of the Hellenic League Hop games. Originally, I hadn't intended to come here, favouring visiting Premier Division, Freeland instead. There was something on that match, but I figured that I might not make kick off there on time if the traffic on the Oxford Ring Road played up. So, I chose this game instead, although initially I struggled to find the place as even my trusty new sat nav didn't recognise it and sent me into a housing estate instead. But a young lad redirected me, not successfully but when I finally found the ground, which was in another new housing estate, I could see what he meant. There was an added bonus today as my good friend from Stockport had produced a programme for the game.

By now I was a bit thirsty but although there was a pub close by, I had no time to visit it. But there was a clubhouse. However, I was initially put off by a sign which read, 'No studs in the tea room'. But I ignored it, went in and made myself a cup of coffee. There was something on this game today in that if either side won it then they would win the league. The match was played out on a rock-hard bumpy pitch. The visitors adopted an aggressive approach in the first half and wearing the same colours of the Woolwich Nomads their physical attitude didn't surprise me at all! But their expectations were controlled well by an experienced ref. It was they who took the lead on 4 minutes, by way of a 20-yard direct free kick and it was the first scoring chance from either side. But after about 20 minutes Chesterton started to get into the match and on 42-minutes they equalised with a 30-yard direct free kick, which was taken from right in front of where we were standing and was probably meant more as a cross really as it eluded everyone before going in off the far post. After the break the hosts took the lead when a cross from the left was stabbed home from close range. Then the physical nature of the game died down as both sides focused on the game more. Ultimately the hosts seemed to demonstrate the qualities which saw them start the day as league leaders and in particular their keeper pulled off one great save. So, the title probably went to the right club.