

TT No.158: Brian Buck - Saturday 8th June 2019; **Stalham Town v Thorpe Village**; Friendly Match; Venue: played at FDC at Flegg High School, Martham; Result:5-0; Attendance: 10 approx.

This match turned up on *Twitter* a few days before it took place and although it was obviously out of season it felt more like a mid-winter's day as I set off. It was raining and not that warm. To get there I caught a train to Norwich and then another one to Great Yarmouth, which was not exactly packed out with holiday makers. On arriving there I recalled the days in the 1950's when this station was known as Vauxhall and loads of people did use it. From here it was about a 40-minute bus ride to Martham and I alighted in the village centre, with the bus which passed the ground just pulling out as my one stopped behind it. So, it was a 20-minute walk to the ground instead. I made a slight mistake in not stopping off for a pint or two here as there were none near the ground.

When I did arrive at my destination there seemed to be a problem in that the school gates were locked with cars outside waiting to get in. But this was soon resolved when the genial chap who manages the FDC on behalf of the Norfolk FA appeared with the keys. Turned out that the school caretaker had locked the premises not knowing that there was a game on here. Anyway, the match did take place and kicked off slightly early. It transpired that Thorpe Village have a new manager this season and he wanted to get an early look at his side. The game was keenly contested but had to be stopped on 4 minutes after someone spotted some dog poo on the 3G pitch. Seen this happen on grass before, but not on an artificial surface. This was a strange game because Thorpe Village, losing 2-0 at half time were not necessarily the inferior side all the time and by the end you felt that they deserved a couple of goals for effort at least. By the end of the match the rain had stopped but as I waited for my bus to turn up outside the ground in a bus shelter, it was still very windy. Overall a decent day out with the main bonus being that I now know how to get to nearby Hemsby by public transport!