

TT1819-165

TT No. 165: *Brian Buck* - Saturday 22nd June 2019; **Chatham Town Reserves v Rochester City Reserves**; Friendly Match; Venue: played at Victory Academy, Magpie Hall Road, Chatham; Result: 6-1; Attendance: Attendance: 25 approx.

With there being little choice today I settled for this game, which, as I went by public transport, not only gave me a break from all the driving I'd been doing earlier in the week whilst on holiday in Anglesey (5 matches watched there), but gave me a relaxed day out. However, the walk from Chatham railway station was a rather arduous, mainly uphill one. When I got there, was there a pub near the ground? No there wasn't. A couple of people gave me directions to one, but they seemed to conflict and anyway I was tired of walking. So, it was something to eat and drink from a nearby shop instead.

Then it was into the Academy, which was rather a large one. Eventually I found the 3G pitch the match was to take place on and fortunately it had a spectator viewing area once you were inside the cage. Apart from the fact that these 3G pitches pretty much guarantee that the match you have come to see will be on and give you a 'new' ground tick, I find them rather soulless places. Once inside one of these cages you could be anywhere in the country. Not only that but most of them have no cover to keep you dry when it rains, or on days like these anything to keep you out of the hot sun and wind. So, during the actual season I now try to avoid them, unless things get desperate of course! The pitch today had been booked by Rochester who also paid the ref. So, it was a shame for them that they were easily beaten by a vibrant Chatham side, who scored thrice in each half, with their goal coming on 54 minutes. Nonetheless the match was quite watchable and the walk back to the station afterwards was far less demanding!

04/20