

TT No. 17: *Brian Buck* - Wednesday 29th August 2018; **Gamlingay United** v Orwell; Kershaw League Senior 'A' Division; Result: 2-2; Attendance: 55 approx.

Even though this ground is close to home I only come here infrequently. Since my last visit, a couple of years ago, not only has the car park been 'tarted-up', meaning that more cars can now park in it, but they have turned the pitch round 90 degrees, meaning that if I was a 'pitch Groundhopper, then I would be seeing a match being played on a third different pitch, albeit tonight's pitch overlapping with the other two. But I prefer to keep things simple, so I've counted just one pitch, although I did count another pitch here when they played over the fence in the Village College for a while!

Gamlingay were originally down to play in the Beds County League this season, but being a Cambridgeshire based side and having played in the Cambridgeshire League for many years, they rejected this idea and renounced their Step 7 status, thus meaning that they were relegated from the Kershaw Premier League and put into the Kershaw Senior 'A' Division. This doesn't seem to have upset the club too much and a goodly number of locals turned up to watch tonight. We were also 'entertained' by three 'Red Arrows' type planes regularly passing overhead, except that they weren't actually red! But if they were doing impressions then it all looked pretty dangerous to me. Trouble was that they were a bit noisy.

As for the match, played out on a pitch still recovering all of its grass following the recent drought, it was a good one. But there was a problem. Gamlingay were playing in predominantly dark red shirts with black stripes on their fronts. Orwell were playing in cherry red shirts. After five minutes had elapsed the ref had had enough. Gamlingay found some fluorescent green and yellow bibs, which Orwell had to put on because, as the away side, they had brought the wrong kit with them! But it did them no harm and they took the lead on 25 minutes. It was the first goal I'd seen scored in the Kershaw Leagues this season with the previous two finishing as 0-0 draws! Gamlingay then stepped up a gear, equalising on 32 minutes and taking the lead on 53 minutes. They then looked comfortable in the lead. But Orwell kept nagging away and they equalised on 86 minutes. Gamlingay will feel that they dropped two points here, but for the neutral it was probably the right result.