

TT No.21: Brian Buck - Monday 3rd September 2018; **Unite MK Reserves** v Kempston Athletic; Bedfordshire County League Division 2; Venue: played at Brooklands Community Sports Pavilion, Milton Keynes; Result: Match abandoned after 71 minutes - serious injury with score at 0-6; Attendance: 25 approx.

It's probably fair to say that Unite MK Reserves life in the Bedfordshire County League hasn't got off to the greatest of starts. On the previously Saturday they not only failed to raise a team, but their first team were busy losing 10-0 away to Leverstock Green in the FA Vase. But tonight, initially promised to be better, having since signed on eight or nine new players over the weekend. The venue was quite an intriguing place, in that it formed part of the ever-expanding Milton Keynes, a settlement which is still being built, but nonetheless already possesses two schools, plus this Community Sports Pavilion. Obviously, its creator likes football as the pitch is landscaped and thus offers a little banking on one side. Apparently, there is a big pond behind one goal and along the far side the pitch slopes down dramatically once it departs from the footpath which runs parallel with the pitch. Although there are some good country walks to be taken close by, your eyes are also directed to some giant warehouses in the distant, which have been painted in cloud colours to try and mask their presence. So overall this wasn't an unpleasant place to watch football. Unite had their own club lino and although he was kitted out in refs gear and gave an impressive display, he says that he has no intention of becoming an actual ref! Then the match started and within four minutes the hosts were a goal down, with a shot which went in off the keeper's boot, or at least one of them! Then on 19 minutes last year's Division 3 champions doubled their lead. This became 0-3 on 25 minutes when the keeper just failed to push a 40-yard shot over the bar. By half time it was 0-4 and the fifth one went in on 50 minutes. On 68 minutes the final goal of the evening was scored from the spot and then three minutes later the game came to an abrupt halt when a Unite player accidentally seriously damaged his hip as he fell to the ground. An ambulance was required and so the game had to be abandoned. My best wishes for a full recovery go to the player concerned.