

TT No.34: Brian Buck - Saturday 22nd September 2018; Christ The King v Coventrians (Holy Family); Coventry & District Church League Division 2; Kick-Off: 10.30am; Venue: played at Bablake Playing Fields, Norman Place Road, Coventry; Result: 2-4; Attendance: 10 approx.

I was up early to get to this one, but still didn't arrive in time to get a cup of coffee when I got there. The last one, before they temporarily closed up, was taken by the visitor's secretary and she had to make it herself! I didn't know about this particular league until the previous day when the aforementioned lady put details of her club's weekend games onto *twitter*. One of the things she cares a lot about is giving all her clubs team's equal publicity. Anyway, I moved over to the other side of the pitch to watch the match, thinking that I would be free from the respective benches, but I was only half successful and the hosts contingent soon appeared as well. Nonetheless I found myself a nice bench to sit on.

This is also the venue where Christ The King of the Coventry Alliance play and their pitch was behind the top goal and was tree-lined on three sides. They have a long-term lease here, having already done 50 years I'm told. But they do share the facilities with other clubs and sports. Soon I was joined by the visiting secretary and we spent most of the first half talking and soon found that our ideals for football in general matched. She has a tremendous vision for 'her' club and I hope that her plans come to fruition.

The match started late because the appointed ref failed to show. But the league vice-chairman was present and so he 'reffed' it. The visitors took the lead on two minutes and things remained that way until after half time, when some light rain had started to fall. But the nearby trees were leafy enough to stop me from getting wet. The host's keeper did their half-time team talk. I doubt if anyone understood what he said as he seemed to talk at about 100mph, faster than a racing commentator! Anyway, it did no good as Coventrians doubled their lead on 49 minutes and tripling it on 73 minutes. Then came the moment when the ref nearly sent off his own son! He was about nine or ten, but as the rain intensified, he was overly keen that his father should put on his rain-jacket. His father politely ushered him away. The hosts pulled a goal back on 78 minutes, before both sides scored again before the end.