

TT No.35: *Brian Buck* - Saturday 22nd September 2018; **Fillongley** v AFC Woods United; Coventry Alliance Division 1; Kick-Off: 2.15pm; Result: 1-4; Attendance: 30 approx.

Fillongley is about a fifteen-minute drive from Christ The King and I arrived about 75 minutes before kick-off, at roughly the same time the visitors did. I then left the car here and then headed off down the hill and about five minutes later I'd arrived at Fillongley Social Club and this is where the Fillongley players were congregating and watching the football on the TV. I had to almost force my way through them to get to the bar. In fact, I was right behind one player who after paying his subs was also fined one pound for being late. Luckily the manager didn't mistake me for a player, although looking at some of them it would be an easy thing to do! Anyway, once they disappeared to get ready for the match, I had a bit more space and had plenty of time for a slurp and something to eat. Nice people in here. I was back at the ground well in time for kick off. The rain from the morning game had followed me here, but it wasn't intense or windy, so a brolly did the trick.

This is quite a scenic ground and the pitch slopes quite severely from top to bottom where the changing facilities are. Although Fillongley have made a decent start to the season today they were up against their top of the table visitors, who were well supported, a sure sign that they are doing well. They went a goal up on 37 minutes when a cross was 'passed' into the net with power. They scored again on 44 minutes when with no one around him the keeper dropped the ball and was taken away from the scorer. The Fillongley half time team talk didn't go well and their captain got annoyed and walked away from the group. But he was persuaded to re-join them by a sub, before walking away again. In the second half the ref missed a potential game changing incident when he failed to pick up an obvious push on a Woods player inside the area on 58 minutes. Then 11 minutes later the hosts pulled a goal back and suddenly the game became closer than it should have been. But goals on 76 and 90(+2) minutes saw the points deservedly go the visitors' way to end a really enjoyable day out.

04/20