

TT No.39: Brian Buck - Saturday 29th September 2018; **Cromer Youth Old Boys v Gimingham United**; Walcott Lighthouse Inn North East Norfolk League Sanders Coaches Division 1; Venue: played at Bodham Playing Field; Result: 2-2; Attendance: 10 approx.

Today I 'cherry picked' this game, as on this day Gimingham were top and Cromer second, both with a 100% playing record. To get here I travelled by train from Cambridge to Sheringham, via Norwich for a very reasonable £12.35 using my senior railcard. Trouble was that a lot of other people fancied a trip to Sheringham as well and the train from Norwich to Sheringham was crowded and included one annoying family, complete with an irritating kid, who chose to sit next to me on the trains to and from Norwich. Anyway, once the bucket and spade brigade had buggered off, I had enough time for a quick sausage & chips before my bus 44 arrived, 15 minutes late. They are run by *Sanders Coaches*, who sponsor the only division in this league.

Anyway, I was still at the ground with at least 45 minutes to spare. There's no social club here so it was off to the Red Hart, about five minutes-walk away, time enough to knock back a couple of pints of 6.25% Norfolk Raider cider. They do food here, but I didn't partake. Dogs are also catered for and they have their own menu under the heading of 'Dogs Dinner'! Anyway, back at the ground they were nearly ready to start when I returned. I did enquire about Gimingham's name, as last season they were referred to as Gimingham United, but this season the 'United' part has been dropped. They say they are still known as Gimingham United.

With that sorted I moved round to the tin stand, a very small affair. It has two steps at the back of it, made out of railway sleepers and I sat on the top one of them. The league will have new champions this season as previously it had been won by Runton United every season since season 2012/13, the last three seasons without dropping a point. But now they have folded and the management team and some of the players have moved on to nearby Holt United of the Anglian Combination. Gimingham were winners of this league in season 2011/12, but today they got off to a poor start when they conceded an own goal on 12 minutes. They went further behind on 30 minutes from a 25-yard direct free kick. Then Gimingham got going and played a bit better. I heard their team talk at the break and they didn't seem overly concerned about their situation. On 52 minutes they pulled a goal back when a loose ball was thumped home from the edge of the area. Although they were the dominant side in this period, I thought they'd run out of ideas, but on 86 minutes they proved me wrong when from a corner they forced the ball home from close range. Overall a decent game. Then it was time to catch the bus back to Sheringham and reunite with the family from hell, who finally departed the train from Norwich at Wymondham, thus leaving me in the more peaceful company of some Wigan Athletic fans, returning home from their 1-0 defeat at Norwich City!

