

**TT No.60:** *Brian Buck* - Saturday 17th November 2018; **Bromleians v Peckham Town;** Andreas Carter Kent County League Premier Division; Result: 2-6; Attendance: 10 approx.

This was quite an easy ground to get to and thus 'complete' the Kent County League Premier Division. It involved catching a tube to Victoria and going from there to Bromley South by train. Then it was a 15-minute bus ride to Bromley Garage and finally a 5-minute walk down Lower Gravel Road, onto a private road, past a shabby looking small industrial area before suddenly finding myself in the middle of some picturesque countryside. This walk actually took slightly longer as knowing that there would be no food at the ground, I stopped off at a local chip shop beforehand. There weren't that many people around beforehand, or during the day actually. There seemed to be just the bar and tea-bar lady, her unenthusiastic son and also the club president, 92-year-old John Cooper, whom the ground is named after.

The club have been here since it opened on 2 October 1954 and was formed by the alumni of Bromley County School. The only other active person within the club was possibly part of the management team. He came into the clubhouse, opened in 1992, to fix the TV, which was no longer there! This came as a surprise to the lady in the tea bar who had only seen it on the previous Wednesday! Anyway, the man fixed the overhead projector so the picture shined on the wall.

As for the game, it was a good physical encounter between the second and fourth placed sides in the league. Bromleians were expected to win as I was told that Peckham were "three players light" today. But it didn't work out that way and by half time Peckham were winning 4-0. Lovely Jubbly! Peckham started the second half with ten men. I suggested to one of their fans that the missing player was probably having a number two, but she said, "Oh no, he's praying!" The second half was more even and the hosts pulled a goal back on 69 minutes, but six minutes later they had a player sent off (second yellow). Despite this they scored again on 84 minutes. 2-4 would have been about the right result but Peckham scored twice more in injury time and this enabled our 'praying friend' to complete his hat-trick. Overall a disappointing day for the home players and management but the long serving president wasn't particularly phased by the result as he'd seen it all before.