

TT No.61: *Brian Buck* - Wednesday 21st November 2018; **Unite MK** v Aston Clinton; Spartan South Midlands League Division 2; Venue: played at MK Irish Centre, Manor Fields, Bletchley; Result: 2-3; Programme: 16pp, £1; Attendance: 22.

I have come here rather intermittently over the years, since my first visit on 8 August 1978 when I saw Spurs Reserves beat Milton Keynes City 4-1 (Micky Hazard, Alan Cochrane, Mark Falco and Paul Bowgett) in a pre-season friendly. Since then many clubs have made this ground their home and the current users are Buckingham Town and Unite MK (formerly Wolverton Town). In recent years the ground has been spruced up and these days it compares favourably to my first visit. The floodlights were fine and the pitch was in good nick. But the ground came with a stern warning for spectators in that there was a board which included the words: *'This is an all-seater stadium. Standing may lead to ejection from the stadium and possible arrest'*. Well in the first half 10 of the spectators complied and by the end only I would have avoided the attentions of the police, who of course never showed up! Actually, I think that this sign and another one may have made its way to this ground from the now demolished MK Hockey Stadium. In fact, this ground has about 350 seats, spread over stands on each side of the pitch, most of them being down one side.

Admission here was free, unless you wanted to lash out a quid on a well presented 16-page programme, all in colour. The game was entertaining but it was a bit like watching a load of primary school children playing in the school playground, as players would often not release the ball when decisions went against them. So, it was that there were quite a lot of stoppages to sort out the friction and the ref did quite well not to send anyone off. Under the old laws he could have done so on 17 minutes when the rotund home keeper flattened an attacker in the area. But his only punishment was a yellow card and having to pick the ball out of the net after the resultant spot kick was smashed past him! Unite equalised on 29 minutes but conceded again three minutes later, but it was 1-3 by the 50th minute. However, three minutes after that a Unite player ran through the visiting defence to make it 2-3. Unite dominated the remainder of the half and probably deserved a draw. Also, I need to report that Clinton didn't receive any cards in this match!