

TT No.66: *Brian Buck* - Saturday 24th November 2018; **London School of Theology** v Ruislip Baptists; Herts & Borders Churches League Division 1; Venue: played at South Oxhey Playing Fields, The Pavillion, Green Lane, South Oxhey; Kick-Off: 10.30am; Result: 0-1; Attendance: 25 approx.

Although this was a twelve-hour day out for me today, it was a rather easy way to pick up three matches. I parked the car close to Carpenders Park, as I usually do when I'm on my way to watch Spurs play at Wembley and from there it was a short walk to the ground, which is in part of a former golf course. What I hadn't realised before my arrival was that this was a game between the top two sides in the league, both of whom had won all of their opening five matches. On a pitch which was truly dreadful in the middle part, both sides went at it from the start. On six minutes the visitors changed their lino. I had no idea that he was wearing nappies! There was plenty going to hold the ref's interest, but he did have a habit of seeming to scratch his tits whenever he looked like he was going to book someone though! In the first half you couldn't really pick a winner, even from the tame coming together in the 40th minute. Talk about fight the good fight! As the match moved through the second half so you could see subtle changes taking place. Ruislip began to seem more organised, whereas the hosts started to look more disjointed, especially up front. So, it wasn't a total surprise when Ruislip took the lead on 71 minutes, by way of a well-placed header from a corner. Then, although possession was still roughly equal, Ruislip saw the game out using a new tactic to me, something called 'Game Management'. I'll have to pop into my local book shop and get a copy! Anyway, this was an excellent mornings football.

04/20