

TT No.67: *Brian Buck* - Saturday 24th November 2018; **Old Lyonians** v AFC Oldsmiths; Southern Amateur League Senior Section Division 3; Result: 3-2; Kick-Off: 2pm; Attendance: 2.

Ironically had Spurs not been at home to Chelsea at Wembley Stadium after this game had concluded, where my friend and I were headed next, then there would have been a zero attendance for this game. Who said that the big boys don't help out grassroots football?! We got here from the previous game by way of a train from Carpenders Park to Wembley Central, from where we took about a 15-minute number 92 bus ride to practically outside the ground. But on our arrival at the ground, the John Lyon School Playing Fields, Sudbury Fields, as we found that the bar wouldn't open until Silvia arrived at half-time, we rerouted to a pub a couple of minutes away instead.

We returned shortly before kick-off, or I did, as my friend had left me to it! I'd seen an Old Lyonians home match before, on 5th April 1983, when I saw them beat Broomfield 2-1 in precisely the same division of the league as was today's match. So, you can see just how far the club has come on in 35 years! That game was played at 74 Pinner View. Oh, how the occupants must have hated the players walking through their house with muddy boots every week! The big thing about that ground though was the fact that it had a substantial stand and if you go onto the Old Lyonians website you can see a home movie of a 1963 match with the said stand in the background.

Anyway, back to today's game and it was played out on an immaculately prepared pitch. Something that John Lyon, the founder of the John Lyon School would be proud of today. He wouldn't have known what was going on though as he died in 1592 before football was invented! The match was refereed by a smiling chap who looked not unlike Kenneth Clark the MP, wearing a black wig! He didn't really have that much to do. The players near enough totally behaved themselves and without the aid of any lines, which is customary in this league, he got right everything that could be expected of him, including most offsides. As for the game what we got was an old-fashioned game of good honest graft and with no gamesmanship (cheating). After 12 minutes the score was 2-2 and the winning goal came the hosts way on 64 minutes and was a miscued own goal. Then there was just time to grab a quick cup of coffee and to make sure that the Silvia here was not another Silvia I know, before setting out for the final game of the day. Looks like the players are well fed here as well. Apart from the fact there was no TV this was a lovely old-fashioned place I could come back to again!