

TT No. 106: *Brian Buck* - Saturday 8th February 2020; **Beeston** v Robin Hood Colts; Samba Notts Senior League Division 1; Venue: played at Leyton Crescent Recreation Ground, Beeston; Result: 4-2; Attendance: 20 approx.

As I had provisionally arranged to meet someone here today, this was my chosen match. He didn't show though and this didn't surprise me really, but I needed the ground anyway. I travelled to the match by train via Peterborough and Leicester and on the train between these two stations I encountered one of life's strange quirks of fate. A nice lady chose me to sit next to and as we got talking, so it transpired that we found out that we were both born on the same day in the same year!

Anyway, I eventually arrived at Beeston station and before going to the ground I popped into The Victoria pub for another revisit. It is easy to get to. Instead of walking out of the station the conventional way, you walk back down the other end of the platform, where there is a small gate. You go through and hey presto, you are in the pub grounds! From here it was about a ten-minute walk to the ground and for the sake of clarity it's actually at 127 Leyton Crescent, although woe betide, if anyone with muddy boots tries to walk through the occupants living room to get to the pitches! There are two of them, which back on to each other. The buildings housing the dressing rooms and the community centre next to them won't win any prizes for architecture. The only spectator facility was a public WC. That apart if you focused on the recreation ground, rather than the buildings it was rather rural and good dog walking territory. I was hoping to meet the league's Rob Hornby here to today. He's been with the league for years and used to organise the Hops, but I was told that at present he is not well.

This was a keen game which improved as it unravelled and was controlled by a young ref who initially looked like one who would have to ask permission before he gave a free kick, but as the match the teams and he got on quite well and they gradually realised that they will encounter a lot worse refs than him this season. The visitors took the lead on 9 minutes but were pegged back two minutes later with a 30-yard direct free kick. The hosts went on to take the lead on 31 minutes, extending it 20 minutes later. The visitors then pulled a goal back on 68 minutes, but although having a player sin binned didn't help the hosts cause much they made sure of the points on 89 minutes when a clearance from the visitors keeper hit the scorer, who put it back over him from some 40 yards out. I then joined the players in a nearby pub and helped demolish some of their post-match food, until it was time to go home. Overall, on this early spring day out, I enjoyed myself.