

TT No.109: Brian Buck - Wednesday 19th February 2020; **Cambridge University v University of Derby**; BUCS League Midlands Tier 1A; Venue: played at Queens & Robinson Sports Ground (incorporating Kings & Selwyn Sports Ground), Barton Road, Cambridge; Kick-Off: 2pm; Result: 1-6; Attendance: 10 approx.

Today didn't get off to a good start and come to that, it didn't finish on one either! This match was not my first-choice game, but when I arrived at Girton Recreation Ground to watch Anglia Ruskin 2nd play, there was no one about, so I diverted to here instead. I'd chosen the other match because it would have started and ended half an hour earlier, which would have assisted me greatly in getting to Spurs for my evening game.

Anyway, on my arrival here one of the first people I saw was one of the match officials, or so he believed! Soon he was on his way home though, as for some reason I thought it best not to go into, there were already three match officials getting changed for the game. The match was played on the furthest pitch away from the dressing rooms, the Kings & Selwyn bit, which had the added luxury of a clubhouse balcony in one corner of the pitch and I watched the game from here. I was in the company of a genial gentleman, who was filming the game for *You Tube* and also did their *Twitter* account. The Blues, or more of a bluey green these days if you looked at their shirts, aren't doing that well this season. I was told that these shirts reflect the colours they used to play in. Well, I've been watching them for close to 40 years now and they've always played in light blue and white. Of course, everything prior to then was in black and white!

Anyway, they are well bottom of their league and seemingly the only thing that can save them is if the league applies some of its quirky rules over un-played or postponed games. Today they were up against a visiting side who can still win the league and without giving that impression totally during the match they were still good enough to put three goals past the Blues in each half. They would have made it four goals in the first half had it not been for a brilliant save from a spot kick. Frustratingly for the hosts it was awarded after the ref denied them two equally good claims for their own spot kicks minutes earlier. They did get a consolation goal on 73 minutes though. The last Derby goal, on 84 minutes was interesting. The ref was going to give Derby another spot kick for hand ball, but the eagle-eyed lino had spotted that although there was a hand ball it came after the ball had crossed the line, so he gave a goal instead. Not a great day for the Blues then, but it was good to have a brief chat with Dr John Little, now retired, but has been part of the Blues set up, seemingly from the day he was born! Afterwards my day did not improve when I went on to Spurs for my evening match, who lost 1-0!