

TT No.36: Brian Buck - Saturday 21st September 2019; **Bedrics Worth** v AFC Yourshirts; Suffolk & Ipswich League Division 2; Venue: played at Great Whelnetham Community Centre; Result: 7-2; Attendance: 25 approx.

Today was apparently the last day of summer and temperatures were in the mid 20's. Having not been feeling that great earlier in the week I decided not to go too far today and I arrived at this little village, about four miles south of Bury St Edmunds, just over an hour after leaving home. I'd seen Bedric's Worth play at home before, on a very cold day in February 2017, when they beat Thurston Reserves 9-0 in a St Edmundsbury League match at their previous Oakes Road Open Space ground, in Bury St Edmunds.

This season they have moved to Great Whelnetham and as Community Centre grounds go, this one was up with the best of them. As you enter the spacious car park the pitch is on a gentle raised plateau in front of you. Then when you get pitch side there is a gem to behold. First though you take in the panoramic views of the countryside and the roof tops of the houses below. You then head uphill to the halfway line where your eye catches an impressive, well looked after stand (no seats) which I would guess could accommodate about 100 spectators. The moss cover roof makes it look a lot older.

Bedric's Worth was the original name for Bury St Edmunds, which began as an Anglo-Saxon settlement called Bedric's worth. Worth was a Saxon word meaning an enclosure such as a farm or hamlet surrounded by a stockade. I'm wasting my time here. Perhaps I should have been a travel writer for *Thomas Cook*, but perhaps they will just tell me where to go now! As for the match, this was a game between two out of the three teams with 100% records after two matches. It's safe to say that they won't be inviting each other to their Christmas parties after this match finished. The mature looking visiting side were aggressive from the start and I think that they came here expecting that they would win. Indeed, on 4 minutes, they took the lead when the ball was bundled into the net from a corner. But at this point they had yet to have serious dealings with the ref. Beware of the man holding the whistle who looks like *Desperate Dan* and has tattoos down both arms! On 8 minutes he 'sin-binned' the visitor's scorer. That didn't go down too well. Then after Bedric's Worth equalised just before he came back on, the visitors had a player sent off for a headbutt. On 30 minutes the game was stopped for a drink's break, but I think that had as much to do with the ref moving his bag from the visitor's side of the pitch to next to me. Did he trust me more than he did them? Anyway, on this hot day the hosts tore into the visitors and they were winning 4-1 at the break. Two goals soon after the break made it 6-1. The visitors then got and scored from a spot kick on 81 minutes before Bedric's Worth scored the final goal of the game on 87 minutes to bring to a close an eventful afternoon out.

