

TT No.49: Brian Buck - Saturday 5th October 2019; Beer Albion v Chagford; Macron Devon & Exeter League Premier Division; Result: 3-5; Attendance: 60 approx.

I've been wanting to visit this ground for some time, especially as me and the missus stayed in Beer for our honeymoon many moons ago now. So, whilst visiting my auntie in Seaton, this was the ideal opportunity to get it ticked off. So, I sneaked out with my nephew and we arrived at the ground about 15 minutes before kick-off.

The ground is not an easy place to get to. I suppose you could get a bus to Beer and walk, but we drove, with the last bit being along an uphill single-track road, with passing places. When we found the ground, the gateman extracted £2 from us each in exchange for a decent programme. We could have parked pitch side but the gateman advised us to park in a small field behind the bottom goal, which we did. He'd obviously assessed his sides ability to keep the ball on the pitch during games!

The ground was actually quite nice. It had a stand on the halfway line with a few chairs in it and behind the goal where we'd come in there was a pleasant bar and tea bar, which became more well used as the weather turned. There were also pleasant views of the sea available when it wasn't raining. The pitch was a bit bumpy and it sloped as well.

Generally speaking, this was a day the hosts won't want to remember too much on the pitch. Although they took the lead on 7 minutes when the ball was side footed home from a corner, the equaliser followed a minute later when a defender headed the ball into his own net trying to keep it out. Chagford then went into the lead on 18 minutes before scoring again on 32 minutes when the ball diverted off a defender into the path of the scorer. Then, as the rain started Chagford scored again on 41 minutes before Beer pulled a goal back a minute later. The start of the second half was delayed because the fairly poor ref forgot to bring the match ball out with him. In this period Beer played much better and they deserved their third goal on 74 minutes. But on 90(+7) minutes as they were pushing for the equaliser Chagford broke away and claimed a fifth goal, which of course was slightly unfair on the hosts, but perhaps not overall.