

TT No.51: *Brian Buck* - Tuesday 8th October 2019; **Wadebridge Town** v Wendron United; South West Peninsula League Premier West; Result: 2-2; Attendance: 62.

This game was my furthest trip, taking just over an hour and three quarters from my Exmouth base. I wasn't quite sure what to expect here ground wise, but on my arrival, I was pleasantly surprised. I parked behind the stand behind one goal and headed off to the clubhouse. Here I noted plans on the wall for a new ground. My heart sank immediately, because I don't get to do too many grounds in this part of the country, then when I've done one, they go and move! This has happened to me with Camelford, a few miles up the road. I've been to their old ground, but not their present one. However, the jovial bar lady told me that these plans have been here for years and there's no sign of anything happening yet. If they do move then it will be just over the road from the entrance to this ground.

Anyway, I then moved my way into the stand and took my place in the back row of the three rows of seats. This stand is quite impressive and the seats are high up above the dressing rooms below. From here you can see the substantial banking behind the uncovered goal. On the other side of the pitch, there is also substantial double banking. The first tier houses the dugouts and the next tier up is where they have another pitch and also where some people park their cars to watch the game or chat. As I waited for the match to start, I was joined by the chairman of Wendron and his dog. The former told me all about the improvements to his sides ground, including the installation of floodlights about a month earlier. He has been the driving force behind this as his friend and equally jovial secretary told me later on.

As for the game, it was ultimately one low on quality but high on excitement. Wadebridge, yet to win a home game this season at this point, took the lead on 3 minutes with a 25- yard direct free kick. But really Wendron were having more possession for the remainder of the half. But their reluctance to get the ball upfield more quickly was frustrating their fans. They don't have to tell me about this. Spurs do it every week. However, it did pay dividends when on 42 minutes a loose ball spun to the scorer, who finished from 5 yards. Then two minutes later they scored again via a header from a free kick. Wadebridge were sent out early for the second half and they played better in this period. This caused the Wendron officials to think about *Murphy's Law*, the one which aptly states - '*Anything that can go wrong will go wrong*'. And it did. On 89 minutes a trip in the area saw the hosts equalise from the spot. Then it was time to head back to base, once again having to deal with the 19-mile diversion.