

TT No.52: *Brian Buck* - Wednesday 9th October 2019; **Callington Town v Dobwalls**; South West Peninsula League Premier West; Result: 0-2; Attendance: 55 approx.

This last of my six matches in the South West was the most problematical. I was told that Callington's pitch is not the best, although League secretary, Phil Hiscox, did cheer me up when he told me that there had been no postponements in the league so far this season and that he thought that the game would be on. I tried to speak to the home secretary, but it transpired that he was away, probably the reason as to why there was no programme tonight, my first failure down here. On the other hand it absolutely chucked it down with rain on my way to the game. But everything was alright when I got there, even though the ground is called Marshfield Park!

I was grateful to the Wendron secretary for pointing out to me that the entrance to the ground is in the grounds of Callington Community College. But it is not part of the college itself and has its own identity. It's a bit hemmed in though. The pitch slopes from side to side, with the clubhouse being on top of a bank in one corner. I didn't spend long in there though as I had noticed the 50-seater stand on the opposite side and I want to bag a seat in it to keep me dry from the rain. I'm glad that I did as I was soon joined by the majority of the crowd! The main plus tonight though was the exceedingly bright floodlights.

Dobwalls were generally the better side throughout, especially in the first half. They took the lead on 5 minutes when the ball sat up nicely for the scorer to shoot home from 18 yards. The second goal followed on 42 minutes, when the scorer wriggled his way round some defenders inside the area before shooting home cleanly. The hosts centre half was subbed at this point! The second half started in a deluge and the pitch, which was actually flat at the start, gradually became saturated without attracting any surface water. Callington played better in this period but not well enough to deprive Dobwalls of victory. The main amusing moment came when Dobwalls brought on a sub. Once on the pitch the ref allowed him at least a minute to do his boot laces up, which annoyed the hosts fans a bit. Then when the said player kicked the ball for the first time in went straight out of play. "Undo your laces!" shouted out someone! Then it was back to base again, thankfully facing the 19 miles diversion for the last time.