

**TT No.56: Keith Aslan** - Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019; **BUCKINGHAM UNITED** v Milton Keynes Robins; Berks & Bucks Senior Trophy. Kick-Off: 15.05 (is it really that difficult to start on time?); Result: 1- 3; Admission: Free; Brochure masquerading as a programme: £2; Attendance: 60 (41 home, 9 away & 10 neutral).

When Buckingham Town FC lost their original ground, I saw their first match on a temporary pitch in Winslow. In the programme was a map of where they hoped their new ground would be back in the town. It was Lace Hill Community Centre, today's venue but now home to Buckingham United FC with Town now further away than ever from their roots having metamorphosed into today's opponents Milton Keynes Robins. I did try to get to the bottom of what happened to no avail.

Thanks to the wonderful Doctor Beeching, the large county town of Buckingham has no rail links anywhere near with a bus from Milton Keynes required (Aylesbury is an alternative railhead). Two different bus companies running a half hourly service each at the same times covering a virtually identical route from Milton Keynes to Buckingham, no wonder bus fares are so ridiculous. Not that it affects anybody else but the return of £11.40p was more expensive than the train fare from London to Milton Keynes. What happened to the days when the bus was a cheap method of travel for the poor (like me)? Still at least it's free for everybody else, so that's all right then.

Lace Hill is a brand-new estate built with young families in mind and looks to be a pleasant place to live. The Community Centre is the hub of everything and apart from the football there is a wide variety of activities. When we arrived it was Gymnastics, when we left it was Judo. Table Tennis to Yoga, Zumba to Learning Italian it's all catered for here but I'm not so sure about the 'Adult Floristry Class'. What is it about flower arranging that isn't suitable for children? The ground is fully railed surrounded by the Buckinghamshire countryside with a grass bank on one side slightly raised giving a good view of the match. At the interval hot drinks and crisps were available in the 'directors lounge' with the half time scores being shown on TV.

Buckingham don't actually do a programme although rather naughtily they pretend they do. In spite of advertising it on *twitter* with a photo of the cover stating 'The Official Buckingham United Matchday Programme' it is in reality a glossy brochure about the club, very nice if you want a glossy brochure about the club but not so good if you were expecting a programme. There were a number of disappointed hoppers including myself and some made their feelings known to a club official pointing out that a matchday programme usually includes a little something about the match. It will look ok in my programme collection when I've run off a team sheet to put inside but it's not what I spent £11.40p on bus fares for. Come on boys, don't say you are issuing programmes, if you aren't.

The Robins from a higher division dominated the match and should have won by a bigger margin, although the goal of the game was the one scored by Buckingham. The game was held up for six minutes in the first half due to a serious head injury to the home side's number six. When he eventually got patched up, he carried on playing for the rest of the match. Clearly the F.A. protocols for head injuries don't apply at this level. Football appears to have suddenly developed all manner of 'protocols' which everybody seems to ignore. Nice word though.

Back at Milton Keynes I got a new *Greggs* tick and grabbed the last chocolate éclair only for the young boy serving to drop it on the floor and I had to make do with a glazed donut instead. Not the day's biggest disappointment.

04/20