

**TT No.83: *Brian Buck*** - Monday 30th December 2019; **Barkingside** v Wormley Rovers; Eastern Senior League Division 1 South (or Thurlow Nunn League Division 1 South); Venue: played at Cricklefields Stadium, Ilford; Result: 2-1; Attendance: 179 (or 145, according to the Barkingside chairman!).

This was my 3,596th and last match of the decade. I don't get here as much as I would like, as on a normal working day the traffic is horrendous in these parts. For irregular visitors the entrance to the ground isn't easy to find. It's in Cricklefields Place, off the High Road, Seven Kings. You drive under a block of flats and park up here. Parking is free after 6pm. The pitch is in the middle of a running track and is lit up by sodium lights, all of which seemed to be working tonight. The only other place I recall watching a match under these 'street' lights was at Congleton Town, back in the 1980's. However, once your eyes get used to them, they were perfectly acceptable. Overall, this is a decent ground and in part it has substantial concrete terracing.

Tonight, I took my seat early as there were some German Groundhoppers present and you know what they are like at putting towels on seats and then bugging off! Well, actually not here tonight. So, on a very bumpy pitch, goal scoring chances were at a premium in the first half. Because of the state of the pitch, ball control was difficult, which seemed to be the excuse as to why so many shots went high or wide. Barkingside were the most-guilty here. But finally, on 48 minutes, we got a goal and surprisingly, it came from Wormley, but way of a spectacular 40 yarder. But although they weren't bad, Barkingside were still the better side and on 54 minutes they equalised with a narrow angle shot. But the piece-de-resistance came on 89 minutes from a free kick. The taker slipped it to his mate standing near him and he unleashed a powerful 25-yard shot, which was curling away from the keeper, but not enough to prevent it from entering the net. Overall a good night out with the East End Boys!