

29/11/05 TT No.120: Mike Latham - Rossington Main (NCEL1)

Sat 26 Nov 2005, NCEL Div. One, Rossington Main 1-2 Carlton Town. Attendance: 32. Admission: £3; 36pp programme £1. Match rating: 3*.

Rossington is a colliery village situated off the A638 Doncaster to Bawtry road and about six miles from Doncaster town centre. Take extra care if travelling from the A1 through Doncaster as there must be more speed cameras per mile than in any place in England and the traffic around the racecourse roundabout, leading to the Bawtry road can be very heavy particularly if Doncaster Rovers are at home, as they were this Saturday.

After leaving the A638 and going across a railway crossing the miners' welfare building looms into view on the right-hand side. The football ground is located at the end of Oxford Street, just past the welfare on the right and there was room inside the ground to park.

Admission was only £3 and a cheery welcome was the order of the day. An outstanding 36-page programme, superbly designed and containing a host of interesting articles and statistics added greatly to the enjoyment on a cold but mostly dry afternoon. The tea bar dispensed hot drinks from pot mugs as well as normal football fare and all the club officials were very friendly.

Football has been played in Rossington since 1919 and the current ground has been in use since 1921. With three senior teams and a girls' team the Welfare Ground is a hub of the local sporting community and the club relies on a hard-working committee to maintain a good level of football in the village.

Despite poor recent weather the pitch was in superb condition, flat and well grassed. On the entrance side to the ground is a small main stand that also houses the dressing rooms, a tea bar and a covered standing area. On the far side of the ground was a small seated stand with the letters RMFC standing out on the brick support. There is a small cover behind one end and the other has large netting to help prevent stray footballs from going onto the adjoining welfare rugby and football pitches. The two far sides of the ground are tree-lined and there is a huge amount of space to develop more facilities should the need arise.

Rossington started well, scoring in the second minute and frequently threatening with their lively forward line. But second-placed Carlton equalised after a sweeping move on the half-hour. The second half degenerated into a series of niggling incidents and eventually the visitors had one of their substitutes sent off for aiming a kick at a home player right in front of the referee. Despite being shorthanded Carlton secured victory with a headed goal two minutes from time. Though the game fell away after a promising beginning the visit to Rossington was very enjoyable and can be recommended to travellers.

