

**13/12/05 TT No.133: *Andy Sneddon* - Florence (Staffordshire County Senior League Premier Division)**

Florence 1 Norton 0; Staffordshire County Senior League Premier Division;  
Attendance: 36; Programme: £1 incl. admission.

This was very much a day of surprises, ultimately pleasant ones. We got to the ground far too early (2 hours early!) to be met with the news that the lad who does the programmes has "broken his fingers playing rugby". Not sounding promising...ever the optimist we headed off for our chosen pub from the GBG, only to find it shut on Saturday lunchtimes (can't remember the name but it's the one in Fulford, not far from Meir KA/Stone Doms in case anyone has similar ideas). A quick phone call later and we're going further away from ground to the village of Oulton (near Stone) and had a very pleasant pint in a lovely unspoilt village local.

It was with some relief then to find that when we got back to ground just after 1-30 that the programmes had turned up. Things were looking up.

Florence are a former Colliery Welfare side, very much on the up off the field, and the amount of improvements done at the complex are admirable. You enter into a car park off the A5005 with a new floodlight all weather pitch to one side and a mightily impressive two-tier dressing room block overlooking the pitch. Top dressing rooms for the all-weather pitch, lower for the main arena. To the right of this on the lower level is the old Colliery Welfare club, which has had £300,000 spent on it and it looks like it has too (inside anyway - the outside could do with a facelift!). The main pitch has been re-railed, and the old stand completely renovated, providing good, elevated, covered terracing for 50-100 people. Next to this a good view can be had from a grass bank that runs most of the rest of this side.

The game itself just lacked more goals than the one we got. There were chances a plenty at both ends, but some great saves in the first half from the visiting 'keeper kept them in the game. The second half was a little more even, but Florence had the best of the chances.

The enthusiasm of the people at the club is there for all to see and I sincerely wish them well. A very enjoyable day out.

Match rating: 3\*.

04/20