

04/09/05 TT No.35: Paul Roth - Coalville Town (MFA)

Coalville Town v Westfields; Sat 3rd Sept; Midland Football Alliance; Res: 1-0; Entry: £5; Programme: £1.

Like the majority of 'hoppers I was determined to get two games "in" on Saturday as England ground out victory in Wales. An early start, too early in fact, as I was two hours premature arriving in Hinckley for their noon kick off against Northwich Vics. Our wonderful web-host has covered the new Marston Stadium in depth before so I won't linger here, suffice to say that although the stadium is quite splendid it is a bit soulless - a testament to what mankind can do with concrete and breeze blocks! The game however was tremendous with the "Vics" winning 3-1. This is a really good footballing team, and I am sure, will entertain wherever they play.

Fifteen miles up the A447 found me in Owen Street, the home of Coalville Town. What a lovely contrast; a place with charm, oozing with character. In fact, driving down Owen Street you don't see the ground at all, until you turn left into a narrow dirt track and the ground lies ahead.

After parking, I paid the £5 entry fee and bought the newsy programme - £1. This is actually a pretty informative read and good value. The clubhouse lies on the right of the ground and is made all the more pleasant at this time of year as it overlooks the cricket ground. The stadium has no less than three covered stands with tip up seating, holding I would guess about fifty people in each. It is backed by a large bank behind the far goal which must be a slag heap from the nearby pit. This helps to give the arena a more closed-in feel. Naturally the club have floodlights. The cheap tea bar is also worthy of note.

Coalville won the match 1-0 and should have scored more. On a hot afternoon the thing that struck me most was that the homesters were by far the fitter of the two teams.

Rightly so, the club are still basking in the glory that brought them so much media attention after last year's F.A. Cup run and I will eagerly be looking for their result when they play at Ilkeston Town next week in the 1st qualifying round.

03/20