

TT No.112: *Richard Panter* - 9th January 2007; **Kettering Town v Worksop Town**; Conference North; Res: 2 -2; Attendance: 1023; Programme: £2.50; FGIF Match Rating: 4.

On this very wet and windy evening, telephone calls revealed that matches at Belper, Arnold, Parkgate and Staveley all north of my Loughborough home, were waterlogged. A look on the 'Poppies' web site was most positive, so at 5.40pm we set off. A call to the club from the rush hour snarl of Leicester was less positive suggesting a call later at 6.30 would offer a final decision. This final call was efficient and once more positive, so it was game on at Rockingham Road.

The 'Tigers' site suggested that entry was at a reduced rate of £6 for away fans, Kettering were also letting their own in for a similar amount. On arrival due to the inclement weather a decision was taken to go in the home covered pitch-side terrace. I proffered my tenner and received no change! (£10 pounds is the normal entrance fee). The turnstile bloke told me it was £6 with a voucher issued, to home fans on Saturday, and there was no way it was £6 in the away end. We took our money back, promptly went to the away entrance, paid our £6 then walked under the welcoming shelter of the home terrace!

The first half saw Worksop Town playing with the wind to their backs and accordingly they had the better of the possession. The only goal of the half came from the spot when the Kettering 'keeper needlessly fouled an opponent on the extreme left of his box; the calmly struck penalty gave Worksop a deserved lead at the interval. As the second-half wore on the visitors were forced to defend deeper and deeper in their own half and inevitably the Poppies equalised midway through. Within two minutes they scored again to take the lead. They played fast and exciting football at this time and looked good for more goals - in fact, for ten minutes, they looked like the only scorers. Worksop made a joint substitution in order to get back into the game and were rewarded for this boldness when they drew level after a desperate scramble in the home box. A point apiece was a fair result from what was an entertaining and fair contest played in pretty grim conditions. Where I pushed to give a man of the match, it would be the Kettering Town groundsman, as the pitch looked in a superb condition.

Rockingham Road is located to the north of Kettering and is signposted from the town centre. The venue is not exactly elegant or modern but it does have a certain atmosphere and charm and there seems to be plenty of goals going in at present. And it is able to get a match on when many others cannot.