

TT No.140: *Richard Panter* - Tuesday 6th February 2007; **Loughborough Dynamo** v Studley; Midland Alliance; Result: 2 - 0; Att:70; Entry: £5; Programme: 28 pages plus 8-page insert £1; FGIF Match Rating: * * *.

A web site posting by 'Pepe' told the watching world that the evenings' fixture was going ahead even though the current wave of frost was due to once more descend over Charnwood Forest during the evening. On arrival we found the pitch to be a ghostly white all over, a quick dash onto the playing area however proved to be soft and springy to the foot. I would guess that the turf lays on a level sandy base which prevents freezing, but what do I know! The billiard table like surface showed no sign of hardening whatsoever, it took a stud throughout and the players never struggled for grip. Seemingly money well spent on the pitch and a well-rewarded collective pat on the back should go to the ground-staff.

The club's Nanpantan Sports Ground has been well documented previously on this excellent site but for the train-spotter I will mention that a new area just inside the turnstile is under construction, as to what it will be is anyone's guess, but watch that space.

The first half was a sad and sorry affair with little to excite we frozen few; there were no shots on target at all. It was not until the fifty-sixth minute that the first meaningful effort was recorded by either team when Studley had a pop at the Loughborough net. This stirred Dynamo who went at their visitors with fresh pace and a skilled passing game. The evergreen Ashley 'Goose' Warner sped past two defenders and scored the opener on 66 minutes, rich reward for a fine performance. The much-vaunted Kris Nurse twisted and turned to net the second and from then on it was over as a meaningful competition, although Studley hit the bar and missed a sitter. This victory lifted Dynamo to sixth in the MFA table.

We had travelled a mere three miles to be there and it was a pleasure to see a few familiar faces in the sparse crowd, the NSG should be added to the non-league fans list of grounds which can stage a match in difficult conditions.