

TT No.161: *Richard Panter* - Sat 24th February 2007; **Solihull Borough** v Rothwell Town; Southern League Midlands Division; Result: 2 -4; Att.: 132; Entry: £6; Programme: 44pages £1; Match rating: * * *.

On yet another rain decimated Saturday we ended up at heavily used Damson Park home of the 'Boro and tenants Moor Green and Birmingham City reserves, on the face of it not the most likely place to see football on the day. However, because of a lot of ground-keeping expertise the pitch was, as it always seems, in excellent condition.

Damson Park is a former golf range and the shed from which the golfers once played from makes an excellent football terrace, it has recently been extended to stretch right across the eastern goal line. The breeze block bones of a cover opposite the main stand have waited patiently for a couple of years to be completed. The main stand/clubhouse has been expertly converted from a former night club, throw in a burger van, club snack shop and massive car park and you have a tidy and spacious football ground.

The Bones from Northamptonshire took the lead with a well-directed header in the eleventh minute. Two minutes later Danny Nicholls was struck by a clearance from home 'keeper Tony Breedon and netted at the second attempt. Had Nicholls converted a far easier chance a few minutes later it would have been game over. Rather than see the visitors three up, the match saw Boro back in it after a mazy run and two nutmegs from lively winger Jerome Grandison to put his side back in it. Three minutes later a defensive calamity gave Towns' Danny Lynch a golden opportunity to regain a two-goal margin which he did. Breathless stuff indeed. The defensive malaise spread to the visitors and they let Solihull in on thirty-five minutes to make it 2-3, it stayed this way until halftime.

The respective managers spoiled it for the spectators in the second half as they insisted that both of their teams defended in the traditional manner. This meant that although both sides had plenty of possession, goal mouth action was at a premium. The only strike of the period came from Nicholls who found space in the box and artfully slotted home. Final score 2-4.

Refreshingly the game was played in a good spirit, and errors excluded, on the ground (helped by the magnificent playing area). The referee also had a good game, in so far as we never noticed him and he received little abuse from either players or the coaching staffs of either club.

The colourful 44-page programme was a double header for this match, and the rearranged visit of Woodford United on Wednesday. This is not to say that it is a bad effort, it has plenty of league news, a quiz, an interesting piece on West Auckland Town FC, well ordered statistics, editor and managers page and 'A Chat with the Chairman'. Supremo Trevor Stevens informs the readers that the proposed merger with Moor Green is 'still awaiting formal approval from the F.A.' Should this

come to fruition there will be more building work to be done at Damson Park in the near future which should see this already well-equipped venue, even better.

06/20