

TT No.174: *Richard Panter* - Sat 10th March 2007; **Rothwell Town** v Sutton Coldfield Tn; Southern League Midland Division; Result: 2 - 0; Att: 132; Entry: £6; Programme: 32 pages, £1.20; FGIF Match rating: * * *.

The venerable market town of Rothwell lies some four miles from Kettering in Northamptonshire. There are many fine buildings built in the local iron ore which have stood the test of time as they are well over five hundred years old. The main stand at Cecil Street looks to have been built around this time, but I believe it actually dates from the early 1960s!

There are three low covered terraces located on the three other sides so there is always plenty of protection from the elements for the local support, today numbering 132. The club are threatening to up sticks and move to a new ground in the near future which will be a mixed blessing as the current ground has a character of its own despite its age. The home support is generally on the more mature side but this has the benefit of meaning that any comments are generally funny, warm and good natured with hardly a rude word uttered. I love the place, but then again, I am a Rowell boy!

The Bones (named after a bone crypt in the parish church) look to be a good outside bet for a play-off place at present. Manager Alan Biley has been with the club since the autumn and he has been modifying the squad and its style of play since this time and the results are tangible proof of the man's efforts.

Rothwell raced into the lead in the second minute when the visiting keeper decided to juggle with a Michael Boyle-Chong long range effort. He ran out of pitch and ended up in the back of his net with the ball. Twenty minutes later Michael won the ball in midfield, passed it wide and the subsequent cross was powerfully headed home by the impressive Darren Lynch. From then on it was all but over as a competition. Both sides went forward and had the odd dig at goal but, in truth, there was little to stir things up for the remainder of the game. The diminutive Sian Massey was in charge of things and she did her job most competently with a smile on her face and a spring in her little step. It is good to see new referees coming through the ranks, be they male or female, and it is even better when these officials are actually enjoying the experience.