

**TT No.163: *Richard Panter*** - Tues 3rd March 2009; **Loughborough Dynamo v Hathern**; Loughborough Charity Cup SF; Score: 1-1; Attendance: 44; Entry: £4 incl. 8pp programme; Match Rating \*\*\*.

On this wild, wet and windy evening, Hathern FC continued their giant killing progress in the venerable Loughborough Charity Cup. Having disposed of Barrow Town of the EMC league in the first round, the boys from Pasture Lane, three miles west of, Loughborough, turned their attention toward Unibond outfit Loughborough Dynamo. This well-deserved victory sets up a final against fellow Leicestershire Senior League Division One side Sileby Town sometime in the coming two months.

As the NSG drains as well as the Sahara-Desert, we never considered the game to be in doubt, despite the deluge it has been under for a few hours. We arrived ten minutes before the 7.30pm kick off and saw that there was quite a bit of surface water down one flank but the ball ran truly over much of the pitch despite the creation of rooster tails when it was passed on the surface. However, the pitch looked safe and fun to play on.

In the first half Dynamo had the lion's share of play but Hathern 'keeper Paul Springthorpe was well on top of his game and produced a string of fine saves to keep his side level at the break. In the second half the visitors had more of the ball. Furthermore, they didn't resort to the usual LSL tactic of kicking lumps out of their opponents. In the second minute of the half Jamie Newbold eluded his marker and nodded home the opening goal for the visitors. From then on, Hathern were able to repel all Loughborough could throw at them until they conceded a penalty in the final few minutes. The penalty was blasted against the post and although Jamie Mason tapped in the rebound it didn't count because he was the penalty taker! Deep into stoppage time Dynamo club captain Ricky Nurse, returning from a long and frustrating injury bundled the ball home to set up the prospect of extra time. But joy of joys just before the final whistle someone announced that it would go straight to a 'penalty kick competition'. Put succinctly, the shoot-out saw Hathern miss the target once and Dynamo failing three times which saw the village team through by a 4 - 2 margin.

It has to be said that modest crowd of hardy souls were generous to the victors to a man, this motley gathering also contributed £196 towards the charity committee's funds. So, either Sileby Town or Hathern can look forward to looking polishing this 110- year trophy for the first time in either club's history. A thoroughly good evening's entertainment was had by all at the Nanpantan Sports Ground. Incidentally, this venue may well be worth adding to your list of clubs which can get a game on when weather conditions, be these through rain, or indeed frost which force many clubs to postpone fixtures.

