

TT No.59: Richard Panter - Tues 7th October 2008; **Loughborough Dynamo v Lincoln United**; Unibond League Division One (South); Result: 1-1; Attendance: 80; Admission: £6; Prog: 44 pp £1.50; Match rating: ***.

After a blustery and wet day, the evening turned mild and dry, ideal conditions for football in fact. We (son Tom and friend Matt) arrived in good time only to be told that kick off was delayed as the match officials were struggling in traffic (the southbound M1 was closed for much of the afternoon and evening). The kick off was therefore at 20.20. We speculated if the officials would be penalised for their tardiness of arrival, much as a late team are!

Once the whistle went the match started at a reasonable pace. Fortunately for us punters, both teams are better as attacking forces than defensive units. United lost 6-4 at the weekend, Dynamo suffered a 3 - 2 reverse. Such is the quiriness of our beautiful game that a score-less match was a distinct possibility. However, the visitors struck just after the half hour through Gary Walters to go in at the break one to the good, and only a fine diving save from the home custodian kept his team in the game shortly afterwards.

The second half was a more interesting period. Loughborough probed for an equaliser but Lincoln's defence stood firm, looking particularly good in the air. It was not until the 67th minute that they were undone. Kris Nurse lashed a low cross into the box which was swept in by Eugene Francis. It was generally expected that the hosts would take the game to their visitors, but this was not the case. The last twenty minutes were end to end but with little goal mouth action. A point apiece was a fair result, Lincoln United steadied their defensive ship and Dynamo avoided a second home defeat to a Lincolnshire team.

Programme editor and printer, Rob Smith had a problem with the evenings issue, where have we heard this before? Dovecote Press's printer was playing up, Rob explained that this was the reason for the orange rather than usual yellow/gold cover. A hardly noticeable change to many, but to perfectionist Rob Smith this was worth mentioning. Rob spends much time, energy and money on the club's magnificent programme and his efforts are always of great interest.

A final point I would question is the published attendance figure. The Unibond site had the crowd down as 134; exactly the same as high flying neighbours Shepshed Dynamo. From a quick head count I made this number around a lowly 80 at the Nanpantan Sports Ground, this included quite a few ground hoppers. For a town of Loughborough's size and given that the team has made a good start at this higher level this is a source of great disappointment and frustration to chairman Frank Fall and his team of friendly and tireless helpers. COME ON LOUGHBOROUGH GET BEHIND YOUR TEAM!

