

**TT No.163: *Rob Champion*** - Saturday 13th February 2010; **Allenton United** v Castle Donington Town; Midlands Regional Alliance Premier Division; Res: 4-0; Admission / programme: none; Match rating: 2\*.

My trawl through the grass roots clubs of the East Midlands continued this afternoon with a visit to Derby based club Allenton United for their game against Leicestershire side Castle Donington Town in a Premier Division clash in the Midlands Regional Alliance.

Allenton play on one, of the myriad of pitches, that surround the Rolls Royce complex on the southern edge of the city. The site in which they play on is accessed through Gate 1 which is on Merrill Way, just before the junction with Moor Lane if coming from the Chellaston area. There are two football and two rugby football pitches on the site, with Allenton using the pitch nearest the changing rooms. Both rugby pitches were also in use today. There were no catering facilities for spectators on the site, while the pitch in use was roped off.

The game was not one that will not live long in the memory. Allenton were clearly the better side and had, I felt, a touch off arrogance at times, this confirming each team's respective position in the league table - Allenton in 4th and CD in mid-table.

The home side did most of the pressing and scored the opening goal on just nine minutes when their number nine rounded the visiting keeper and put the ball back across goal for it to be headed home. The remainder of the half was pretty uneventful until Allenton were awarded a penalty on 37 minutes but was blasted over the bar. A few minutes before half time and a case of handbags broke out only for the referee to send off one player from each side, when I felt a booking for each should have been sufficient. Allenton doubled their lead five minutes into the second half when the number 9 slotted the ball past the keeper from ten yards out. The final two goals came in the last ten minutes, firstly from the penalty spot on 81 minutes scored by the home keeper and the final one with just three minutes remaining. One note to make is that both goalkeepers made two or three good saves each in the second half, while Castle Donington struck the woodwork late on in the game.

Attendance: don't know as I didn't do a head count.

Google maps driving time / distance: 43 minutes - 31.6 miles.