

TT No.6: Rob Champion - Tuesday 18th August 2009; **Cotgrave Welfare v Wollaton**; Notts Senior League Sen Division; Admission/programme: n/a; Attendance: varied but peak at around 55 (h/c); Match Rating: 3*.

With the weather being as it is, a lovely summer's evening my preferred choice of game would be one that has little in the way of spectator facilities and also one that kicks off at 6.30pm. After trawling through various local league websites, I eventually settled upon Cotgrave Welfare v Wollaton in the Notts Senior League (NSL).

Cotgrave, rather obviously due to the name of the club is an ex-mining village, of which there is a plethora in this part of the country. Other examples being Clipstone, Rainworth and Blidworth. I knew that Cotgrave had lights but presumed that they were not being used tonight hence the early kick-off stated on the NSL's excellent website. Arriving at the ground with my dad with about ten minutes to kick-off we found the place locked up, but shortly after we were told that the league's website was wrong and in fact kick-off was 7.30pm.

To kill the hour, we ended chatting over a pint in the miner's welfare which is located behind the ground. When time came for kick-off, we were not charged any admission nor were any programmes issued. To be honest it didn't come as a surprise even though this was my first ever game in this league.

The game started with both sides up for this encounter and chances were created at either end with some pretty good football at times being played. It was the visitors from Wollaton who took the lead on twenty minutes when a through ball played in Bascombe who lobbed the ball coolly over the home keeper. This did not deter the home side and they came close themselves a few minutes later when a shot from the edge of the area went straight at the Wollaton keeper for a comfortable save. Cotgrave got a deserved equaliser on fifty-four minutes when a free kick from the right-hand side was fluffed by the keeper which allowed Bee to tap in from a yard or so out. No further goals followed and clear-cut chances were at a premium and the game ended in a fair 1-1 draw.

Overall an enjoyable first taste of Notts Senior League football and I can say without doubt that I will be back for more this season, helped by the proximity to Leicester of a lot of the clubs.