

TT No.94: Gyles Basey-Fisher - Sat 16 October 2010; **Aylestone Park** v Highfield R; Leics. Senior League Prem Division; Venue: Dorset Avenue, Wigston; Result: 3-1; Admission: £2.50; Prog: incl. admission (16 pages); Att: 31 (head count).

If ever you needed clarification that a team was moving to a new ground then building it next door is all the evidence you need.

Well that is the case with my visit to Aylestone Park today, the new ground is already well underway with a railed off pitch complete with floodlights, partially build dug outs and concrete pad ready for the portable stand, one would expect from the current ground, the huge changing rooms/clubhouse are also heading for completion. The original moved date has now past and an official said that it will probably be the start of next season, though he didn't rule out a few games being played there before the end of this season.

Aylestone Park actually play in Wigston on Dorset Avenue, a fellow hopper informed me that the No 47 bus drops off near the new ground and leaves the St Margaret's Bus Station in the City Centre every 20mins, on the hour, the bus goes in a continuous circle so should go past every 20mins for the return journey, but please ask.

I found getting information about Aylestone Park difficult, but I do know that quite a few of the players and officials have come across from the now defunct Leicestershire Constabulary FC and one of the things that the officials have resurrected is a sixteen-page programme, which was sold with admission for £2.50.

On arrival you are greeted with an ample sized car park and to reach the ground itself you go through the two-storey building, which houses the changing rooms and the Lineker Lounge above, for those who don't know Gary Lineker used to play for them before joining Leicester City. You then go through a connecting door, which takes you into the small clubhouse with a bar, which also serves hot drinks and food, though I didn't see any today?

The ground is about 50yds away and is railed off using red and white posts, the only area of cover is on the halfway line in the form of a prefabricated covered terrace, which I assume will move to the new ground, a small section of hard standing is to the right towards the corner flag, opposite are the two dugouts, but although you could stand on this side it is narrow and rather overgrown, the two ends are open.

My last two Non-League games have ended 0-0 and the first 20mins today gave me little to think this run would end. On 21mins this all changed, the Highfield Rangers Keeper Ashley Jones failed to pick up a loose ball and it ran through his legs and allowed Karl Towers to virtually walk the ball home. Aylestone Park then transformed into a side full of confidence, passing the ball and creating numerous

chances, but amazingly it took another mistake by the Highfield Captain Darren Manning in the 56th minute,

whose back header fell straight into the path of Paul Levers who carried the ball into the box and rifled home. Highfield had their best spell of the game with 20mins left with two great opportunities within 60 seconds, firstly Kelvin Pugh found himself with only the keeper to beat and then Mark Taylor found the ball at his feet 2yds out only for both to be foiled by the Aylestone keeper Ben Jackson. Aylestone nearly killed the game off in the last minute when Luke Towers header came crashing down off the cross bar,

but in the 3rd minute of injury time good work by Liam Towers down the left allowed Paul Levers to lay the ball off for Luke Towers to drill the ball home from around the penalty box. Highfield did have time to score a consolation goal straight from the kick-off through Kelvin Pugh, which turned out to be the last piece of action.

07/20