

**TT No.21:** *Steve Hardy* - Sat 7<sup>th</sup> January 2017; **Leicester Nirvava** v Sleaford Town; United Counties League Premier Division; Result: 3-1; Admission: £3; Programme: £1 (an excellent effort); Attendance: 47.

After 30 years of waiting, Leicester Nirvana finally have a ground of their own and today, I was able to visit them for their first Saturday game at their new home. I went by train to Leicester and then caught the number 58 bus from the bus station to within a hundred yards of Hamilton Park.

I really like the new set up, and the people running the club were lovely. There were loads of hoppers in the crowd of 47, and it was disappointing to hear some of them moaning about the ground being so basic, the pitch being in a poor state, and the programmes not arriving until 2.15pm. My view is that the club are not spending money recklessly, and will add more facilities as the money becomes available. As it is, it is more than adequate for the crowds they are getting now, and they are to be congratulated on finally getting a ground of their own without overspending.

On the pitch, Nirvana looked really impressive going forward, and not so in defence. This was summed up by a lightning fast break for a super opener, being cancelled out straight away by some comical defending which allowed a Sleaford forward to simply chest the ball in to an empty net. Nirvana pressed on again though, and took the lead again just before half time.

After half time the expected response from Sleaford just didn't happen. They have been on a good run of form lately, but just didn't seem to be able to get going. Ultimately, Nirvana scored a very late third, despite being reduced to 10 men after 70 minutes.

Back at Birmingham New Street as I sat waiting for my connection, the platform was filled by Newcastle fans going home after their game at Birmingham. Strangely most of them got on to a train for Bournemouth, so perhaps it isn't just Man U who have thousands of southern based fans!