

TT No.28: Steve Hardy - Saturday 28th January 2017; **Market Rasen Town v Ruston Sports;** Lincolnshire League; Result: 0-0; Admission: Free; Programme: No; Attendance: 11.

A weekend break in Lincoln and a number 53 bus, gave me the opportunity to make my debut in the Lincolnshire league with a visit to the pretty town of Market Rasen. No problems with the weather here, and the club obviously found it strange that I would even bother to ring them, before getting on my bus, to make sure the game was still on.

The club share their Rase Park base with the local cricket club, and it was good to see that the two clubs have joined together in a fund-raising exercise which will provide better facilities for both of them to use. At present, the football team play on a roped off pitch on the far side of Rase Park, which has a very impressive stand down one side, and change in the communal clubhouse on the other side of the cricket square. The bar was open throughout in the clubhouse, and tea and coffee were also available.

On the pitch, it was third bottom v second bottom and, to be honest, the game had 0-0 written all over it from about the 10th minute. Even when Ruston were awarded a very dodgy penalty early in the second half, you just knew it would either be saved or blazed over the bar. It was the former!

The Lincolnshire league are trying to attain step 7 status. There are four reserve sides in the 16 member clubs, and several clubs that have already played at step seven over the years, for example, Lincoln Moorlands Railway and Nettleham. On the basis of my visit to Market Rasen, they would seem to have a pretty strong case, and I wish them luck in their quest.