

**TT No.29:** *Keith Aslan* - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2017; **Melton Town** v **Stewarts & Lloyd Corby**; United Counties League Division One; Kick-Off: 15.03; Result: 4-1; Admission and Programme: £5; Attendance: 42 (36 home, 5 away & 1 neutral)

Another easy one by public transport with no maps required. Out of Melton Mowbray station, up to the main road, turn right, keep going, and the Melton Sports Village is on your left after a 23-minute walk. For the infirm and inert there are plenty of buses. Whatever your sporting favourite it is catered for here. My travels have made me a bit of a connoisseur of hockey but the match going on today didn't have the same magic as usual which might have been because it was a men's game! Pre. match staging post was the Rugby Club bar, adjacent to the ground, with a wide selection of cheap comestibles. If I was religious, I would imagine this is what heaven is like, stuffing my face, quaffing the amber nectar and watching Chelsea demolish Arsenal on a big screen. Such joy.

I liked 'Digital Deadline Park' (yes that's really what it's called), although everything is temporary it is all pleasing to the eye. The portacabin changing rooms are made to look like wood, at least I assume they are, I can't believe they actually make them from trees these days. Next along is a nice-looking stand behind the goal. Given that it is only covered by a sheet of canvas and open on all four sides, unless the rain is falling vertically you would have to choose your seat to avoid a soaking, not a problem today. Then there's the tea bar with hot pies and finally the piece de resistance, the 'hospitality suite' situated in an old electricity generating cabin that still has the yellow warning notice on the door 'Danger electric shock' The playing surface was equally suited to crown green bowls and the secretary must have wondered who the dolt was who phoned her up the previous evening to ask if the pitch was going to be o.k. I quote from the programme "Plans are in place to have a purpose built 1000 capacity stadium ready for the 2018/9 season" In my experience the words 'plans are in place' normally means they aren't, and I assume the new facility is needed for step five and the daffy ground grading rules. I hope if they ever do move the current ground is put to good use. Incidentally you could comfortably get a thousand into Melton's present abode, although I expect our old friends Mr. Health and Mr. Safety might disagree.

Melton are happily pottering along mid table while Stewart & Lloyds have usurped Woodford United from their traditional bottom spot. On the balance of play the away side certainly weren't three goals worse this afternoon and I was very impressed with their performance considering most of the team looked like the target audience for CBBC. Or maybe I'm just getting old?