

TT No.79: *Keith Aslan* - Saturday 13th January 2018; **RETFORD** v Brodsworth Welfare; Central Midlands League North Division; Kick-Off: 14.03; Result: 2-0; Admission: £3, and a bargain quid for old people; Programme: £1.50p; Attendance: 60 (53 home, 3 away & 4 neutral).

I must have been past this ground literally hundreds of times on the train. I normally go through Retford at 140 miles an hour, which in truth is probably the best way to see the town. Retford FC (not to be confused with Retford United) have only been going since 2015 and having previously ground shared, this is their first season at the former Rail headquarters. It's a move along the right LINES and they are definitely on TRACK. Three side railed, concrete walkway, turnstiles and a tannoy comprise part 1 of the upgrade. Next season a stand and floodlights are TIMETABLED. Hot drinks and snacks are available from a portacabin and the burger van next door is expected to be online soon for more-meaty fayre. They also have a selection of this season's home and away programmes laid out on a table to which spectators are invited to help themselves. All the SIGNALS are good for the future with the team in the top half of the table having amassed plenty of POINTS with the on-field activities matching the off-field progress. Serious groundhoppers will find the teams written on a whiteboard next to the dugouts. For the driver the way in could be a bit difficult to find. The ground is one side of the main road, the entrance is through a tunnel on the other. For the carless it's a simple 20-minute walk from the station. They do have a clubhouse 50 yards from the ground which I missed out on.

Brodsworth Miners Welfare (they dropped the 'Miners' appellation in 2006 for obvious reasons) have had a rollercoaster ride for the past few seasons. 2011 - North East Counties; 2012 - Doncaster Senior; 2013 - Central Midlands; 2016 - Doncaster Senior and 2017 back to the Central Mids. They were no match for the home side today who dominated proceedings and only rubbishy finishing meant the second goal that made things safe only came 5 minutes from time. Somewhat surprisingly no balls went over onto the adjacent main line which if they had done would unlikely to be ever seen again. The match was accompanied by a glossy, colour, 16-page programme. The quiz had 12 questions any sports fan could have a punt at 11 of them but I guarantee nobody will get the answer to 'what sport did Scotland become world champions in 2005?' Answer at the end of the report but to give you a clue it's not a sport you associate Scotland as being particularly good at like Hammer Throwing, Tossing the Caber or Football (ok forget the last one).

Retford have just 4 home matches left this season due to only playing 3 away games up to the new year including a period from 23rd September to 6th January when they weren't given a single away match! I wonder who the Central Midlands League fixture secretary could possibly be? I spent the game in the excellent company of Harlow Dave (Betcha' can't guess where he lives?). He didn't want to

go very far today because he'd been working Friday night. Only a groundhopper would regard a 2-hour 20-minute drive each way as "not very far".

And so, to the answer to the days big question: what sport did Scotland become world champions in 2005? It was of course Elephant Polo. The things you learn from football programmes!

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