

TT No.053: 20/03/05 Ground/Club Focus: *Paul Roth* - Sileby Rangers (UCL1)

SILEBY RANGERS vs. THRAPSTON TOWN; U.C.L. Div 1; SAT 19 March 2005;

RESULT: 4-1; ATT: 54; PROGRAMME: 20 pages £1 with admission.

I have not dipped into the lower division of the U.C.L. for some time and with Sileby Rangers going well at present I thought I would have a look at them. I set off by train from at 7.30 arriving at Northampton at 11.15. A nice town with some very good pubs serving some cracking real ales. After touring these I set out walking towards the ground which is about 2 miles out of town, just off the Kettering Road.

I marched down Fernie Lane (where the ground is situated) and straight into a set of large wrought iron padlocked gates! As luck would have it their secretary, Mr.Battams, was standing right by them. (I had e-mailed him earlier in the week to check kick-off etc. and he told me the club must keep these gates closed on matchdays as the local residents didn't want hundreds of cars going up and down their small road. "Hundreds"?) So, I could gain access to the ground, he then generously gave me a lift all the way around the block (to the other side of the gate and almost back to the place where we had been standing!). You wouldn't get that treatment at Highbury!!

The club is one of those rare gems you come across now and again with floodlights, super clubhouse (serving beer, tea and hot and cold food), a great playing surface all enclosed by a neatly trimmed hedge. Very, very smart indeed. To boot, a glossy fronted programme sold for £1 which included entry. This contained everything you could need information wise. The game itself was very entertaining with Thrapston taking a 1-0 halftime lead and then Sileby storming back to win 4-1 in a one-sided second half.

Interestingly when I go by train to matches, I always wear a pedometer just to see how far I manage to walk during the trip. It is calibrated to its most resistant setting. 2000 steps equates roughly to a mile and in all yesterday after stepping out of my house at 7.00am I had clocked up 24070 steps. So, a 12 mile walk then. One way of keeping fit I suppose!

As ever another really great day out.

03/20