

TT No.078: 12/04/05 Ground/Club Focus: *Mike Latham* - Sutton Town (NCELP)

Mon 11 Apr 2005, NCEL Presidents Cup Final First Leg, Sutton Town 3-3 Buxton
(att. - 386)

Though soccer in the Nottinghamshire town of Sutton-in-Ashfield dates back to the mid-1880s, the present club was only formed in 2000. Either side of the second world war Sutton Town played at the Avenue Ground on Mansfield Road but lost this ground when the landlord sold it to a property developer. They then moved to Lowmoor Road, in neighbouring Kirkby-in-Ashfield, changing their name to Ashfield United in 1992 but folding in 1997 when East Kirkby MW reclaimed the ground.

Resurrected as North Notts FC, the new club worked its way through the Central Midlands Leagues and was re-named Sutton Town FC as the club achieved promotion to the NCEL Division One. After finishing fourth last season, the Snipes now currently top the league with a handful of games remaining.

Their ground is a neatly appointed one, known as The New Hosiery Mills Ground and located off Huthwaite Road, situated in the middle of a smart new housing estate and with an impressive cricket ground, where Mansfield Hosiery Mills CC compete in the Bassetlaw League, next door.

The luxuriously appointed cricket pavilion did a roaring trade before the game and admission was £4 with a smart 40-page full colour programme selling for an incredibly cheap £1.50. Hemmed in by new houses on two sides and with a steep wooded slope behind one goal and the cricket ground behind one length it is hard to see how the club will find the room to develop the ground much further but they have made a fine job so far. There are two entrances from the cricket ground side and a small seated stand behind the goal to the left with a covered standing area up to the halfway line down the near side. The rest of the ground is newly concreted hard standing.

A large contingent of visiting fans made for a terrific atmosphere and a highly competitive and interesting game ended 3-3 with the second leg on 27 April now eagerly anticipated. Buxton led twice but were pegged back before halftime. The home side took the lead with a Beckhamesque free-kick taken by Colin Cockerill before the visitors scrambled a late equaliser. The pitch was well grassed and had a slope towards the main stand end. Sutton Town are a friendly and ambitious club and a visit there is to be recommended.