

**TT No.121: Ian Hill** - Saturday 13th January 2007; Calais RUFC v Lens "B"; CFA; Result: 4-1; Attendance: 1814; Programme - None issued; FGIF Match Rating: 3\*.

I last visited the Stade Julien Dennis three years ago. The major changes from last time being the removal of the temporary stands next to the main grandstand and behind the far goals. They have also added a portacabin type club shop that sold poor quality clothing. There is a good-sized cantilever main stand with a very small covered terrace opposite. Behind one goal is uncovered terracing and it appears the opposite end of the ground is unused.

Calais seem to be a good cup side but don't seem to have built on their appearance in the French Cup Final a few years ago. The ground would probably be good enough for Conference North but their "home" fixture next weekend in the French Cup has had to be moved to Boulogne to accommodate a bigger crowd. The whole feel is of a very poor club. I believe a new ground is planned so that may lead to the club being more progressive.

The game was played in heavy rain and gusting winds. Calais were too strong for Lens reserves and took a 2nd minute lead with a spectacular free kick by Boutoille. Marque added a second just before half time to give Calais a comfortable lead. Further goals were scored by the same players in the second half before Lens got a consolation goal in the 90th minute.

The entrance fee to stand is a very reasonable 5 Euro's. No programme was available which was very disappointing. My two previous visits have also failed to produce a programme.

If you are looking for a European fixture then Calais is an easy ground to visit. Unfortunately, it is located outside the town centre and is probably a good 30 to 40-minute walk from the main railway station. If you turn left at the road junction in front of the theatre you can catch a bus that goes past the ground. Games are played on Saturday evenings with kick off either 6.00 or 6.30pm.