

TT No.44: Ian Hill - SC Babelsburg and Dynamo Berlin (both Oberliga Nord) and **1FC Union Berlin and Hertha Berlin II** (both Regionalliga Nord).

SC Babelsburg 03 v Tennis Borussia Berlin - Oberliga Nord -13th November 2006, Programme issued, Attendance approx. 3500, Entrance 3 Euro's to stand.

A weekend away in Berlin offered the chance to visit some new grounds at different levels of German football.

First up was a Friday night visit to top of the table SV Babelsburg 03 v Tennis Borussia Berlin in the Oberliga Nord Competition. Babelsburg were unbeaten so far this season winning seven games in a row.

The Karl Liebknecht stadium is easily reached using the S Bahn Babelsburg. The ground is 10 minutes-walk away.

The entrance fee was 3 Euros to stand. The ground is very basic. A large clubhouse dominates one side of the stadium and has a lean to attached which covers seating at the front. The rest of the ground has high banked terracing.

Everyone at the club is very friendly and the stewards were really helpful in finding a programme for me as I arrived late at the ground. The programme is a very good A5 36-page effort which is full colour throughout. There is a well-stocked shop just as you enter the ground on your left.

The game was a very robust affair with Tennis being a very physical side and not afraid to throw themselves to the floor when tackled. They ran out 3 - 1 winners to record a surprise victory.

Dynamo Berlin v Hansa Rostock II - Oberliga Nord - 14th November 2006, Programme issued, Attendance 509, Entrance 10 Euro's to sit.

This season, Dynamo's games have been switched to the Fredrick Ludwig Jahn Sportspark due to crowd trouble last season at their Sportsforum stadium. The Ludwig Jahn is the ground where they played when they were successful in the East German League.

The stadium is a 10-minute walk from Elberswalder Str U bahn station. It is dominated by a large two tier stand with the rest of the ground seating which is covered at the opposite side of the stadium. The seating is very colourful but unfortunately you are a long way from the pitch due to an athletics track.

Please note if you buy a ticket at the back of the main stand you will have to sit in the visitor's section of the ground which is actually the best part. The entrance fee is 10 Euro's to sit and a programme is given away free of charge. It has a colourful printed cover but it is photocopied inside.

This game was a disaster for Dynamo as they were easily beaten 5 - 0. The match was dominated by the high number of riot Police on duty as watching them control the Dynamo fans was more entertaining than this dull game. The stadium is very good but there is no atmosphere with only 500 people inside.

1FC Union Berlin v VFL Osnabruck - Regionalliga Nord - 14th November 2006,
Programme Issued, Attendance 7714, Entrance 6 Euro's to stand.

To the far east of Berlin lies the Alten Forsterei stadium. It is reached by S Bahn getting off at Kopenicker station. It then takes approx. 10 minutes to walk to the ground, part of which, is through a wood. Just follow the crowd.

It can be quite hectic getting into the ground due to searches but it is well worth it. There was a great atmosphere thanks to three sides of steep terracing that was full. The ground was noisy and there was a large contingent of Osnabruck supporters present. The fourth side of the ground has a low-level grandstand.

The entrance fee was 6 Euro's to stand and a very good 48-page full colour programme was on sale for 1.50 Euro's.

Union were top of the league going into the game but it finished all square at 2 - 2 as they came from behind to score a goal in the last five minutes.

Hertha Berlin II v Fortuna Dusseldorf - Regionalliga Nord - 15th November 2006,
Programme issued, Attendance 939, Entrance 6 Euro's to sit.

Hertha's Under-23 side play games against the larger clubs at the Fredrick Ludwig Jahn Stadium. As with the Dynamo game if you buy your ticket at the back of the grandstand you will be placed with the away supporters. Despite the efforts of the Fortuna supporters this game lacked atmosphere as there appeared to be hardly any Hertha supporters present.

The entrance fee is 6 Euro's and a nice 16-page colour programme was available at the ticket kiosk for 1 euro.

Fortuna won the game thanks to two goals from ex Glasgow Rangers player Jorg Alberz.

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