

**TT No.119: Ian Hill** - Fri 28th November 2008; **Barrow** v Brentford; FA Cup 2nd Round; Res: 2-1; Att: 3,532; Admission: £12; Programme: £2.00 (36pp); FGIF Match Rating: \*\*\*.

Let's get things straight I really enjoy going to Barrow's Holker Street ground. It's a great old ground with, at times, a very hostile atmosphere. Being a Workington supporter, I have experienced the "atmosphere" on quite a few occasions! Supporters of either club don't really like each other and to be honest some Barrow supporters do have ideas above their station.

This game really did have "giant killing" written all over it. Rain earlier in the day had made the pitch heavy and a biting wind didn't help things during the game. It was perfectly set up for Barrow's long ball game and so it proved. The turning point in the first half was the sending off Brentford goalkeeper Hamer for bringing down Barrow's Walker. Paul Brown easily converted the penalty past the replacement keeper Lloyd Anderson for Barrow to take the lead. It has to be said that Anderson looked like he would rather be somewhere else than playing in this scrap. He had a very poor game. After Barrow took the lead it looked like there was only going to be one winner but early in the second half Brentford scored against the run of play to level the scores. This didn't spoil the Barrow performance and after hitting the bar they took the lead through Workington old boy Matt Henney to win the game. It was nice to see Matt grab the "limelight" as I don't know how many times his surname has been mis-spelt in the *Sunday Non-League Paper* - Hinnny, Hanny, Honney etc.

A visit to Holker Street comes highly recommended. The ground has changed a bit since it's Football League day's but it still looks old due to a lot of the terracing being retained. A new main stand replaced a wooden one alongside the pitch with a new terrace cover being erected on the other side of the ground. Unfortunately, one of the terraces behind the goal used to be covered but due to safety regulations etc. it was taken down a few years ago. Behind the other goal is the Sports Centre end. This has limited spectator facilities and was used to house the Brentford supporters.

Programmes - as I arrived just on kick-off, I knew there was no chance of getting a programme. This is always the case at Barrow. Unless you get there very early you will not be able to buy one. No need to ask a steward as you will not get any help.

It was sad to see the attitude of a steward towards a spectator who ran onto the pitch. I know people shouldn't do this but it was at the opposite end of the ground to where the ball was and it appeared that the man, for some reason, wanted to get to the other side of the ground quickly. It was funny when he got stuck on the perimeter wall but not when he was dragged off it by a steward and then smashed into the ground very forcibly. Totally over the top and not necessary. Back to programmes - a programme seller came round the ground in the middle of the first

half selling team-sheets for 20p each. Most people approached him wanting to buy a programme. He was couldn't understand why people wanted to buy a programme when his team-sheet was far more up to date? I did manage to get a programme at the end of the game but only by chance. I walked into what I thought was a bar but it was a hospitality area with programmes discarded on the tables. Well better than seeing them thrown away but it was a poor effort.

A trip to Holker Street should not be missed. The bigger the game the better. You can indulge in the delights of quality catering in the ground - cup a soups and boiled hotdogs. You can also experience the results of a small gene pool on a secluded town at the end of cul-de-sac. It's real eye opener.

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