

TT No.122: Gary Spooner - Sat 5th December 2009; **Pollenca** 2-0 Murense; Primera Regional Preferente de Mallorca; Admission: 10 Euros; Att: 125 (est.); Weather: Warm/sunny for first half and not quite as warm and sunny for the second! Match Rating: 2* .

I've been to Mallorca many times. At my previous employment we held an annual seminar there where we were accompanied by customers and suppliers. I was always given the task of organising a trip to the football. Usually this meant going to see Real Mallorca though on one occasion I did manage to "persuade" some of our guests that Atletico Baleares would be a good afternoon out (it was!). Therefore, my previous experience of Mallorcan football had been to visit the old Luis Sitjar and the new San Moix many times apiece and Atletico Baleares just the once.

This time it would be different. It was our 20th wedding anniversary and I had asked Mandy where she wanted to go to celebrate. She had said Mallorca and at last I found myself with the opportunity to visit some other grounds. To find out fixtures and kick off times I used <http://www.futbolbalear.es/> and <http://www.ffib.es> which are both superb websites covering Mallorca (and the other Balearic Islands). There were less choices than normal as the majority of Tercera division games had been cancelled due to the UEFA Regions cup game taking place that weekend (the equivalent of our NLS cup).

I had selected Pollenca for our Saturday afternoon entertainment. We had driven up from Palma and made an early scouting mission to find out where the ground was before travelling onwards to the Cap de Fermentor and then to lunch at Port de Pollensa before returning for the game. It was a good job we did as the locals seemed oblivious to the fact that they had a football team. Eventually a lady shopkeeper knew there was a team and where the ground was and we were sorted!

The ground itself was part of a multi-sport complex with the pitch being surrounded by an athletics track. There was only access to one large stand with the other three sides being out of bounds though I was allowed to walk round before kick-off and take some pics. There was a club house and bar behind the ground and within the complex. Admission was 10 euros apiece and a ticket was issued. I thought this quite hefty for the level of football but times are hard in Mallorca. The credit crunch is biting hard with unemployment having risen by 30% in 12 months. Visitor numbers have fallen dramatically, a fact borne out by our sparsely populated flight to Palma which only had about 40 passengers on. There were no programmes. I asked whether any badges were available and was told that I could get one from the clubhouse at half time. However, after about twenty minutes a gentleman came up to myself and Mandy and gave us a superb metal pin badge each. All offer of payment was flatly refused.

The game itself was fairly mediocre. Both teams are in the bottom half of the league and it showed. Pollenca won 2-0 after scoring in the 51st and 55th minutes so the majority of the crowd went home happy. Mandy and I drove back to Palma having had an enjoyable day out.

06/20