

TT No.21: *Ian Hill* - Sat 15th August 2009; **Annan Athletic** v East Stirlingshire; Irn-Bru Scottish Football League Division 3; Score: 0-1; Attendance: 657; Admission: £9; Programme 32 pages £1.50 Match rating: 2*.

My first league game of the season and what a stinker. This was my second visit to Annan but my first time watching them as a league club. I've always had a soft spot for East Stirlingshire so I was looking forward to a good game. It was also good to see some Workington "rejects" lining up for the home side. This was a poor game played by two sides who struggled to play flowing football. The Shire have recruited well and look much stronger than previous season's but on reflection that wouldn't be hard. They won the game comfortably in the end despite having a player sent off in the second half.

This ground has been covered before in *Traveller's Tales* and it is just right for this level of football. The only changes from my last visit being the construction of a new turnstile block and manky pie shop - I do think mutton pies are an acquired taste. Programmes were on sale outside the ground and sold by an extremely polite young man who hoped I would enjoy the game after I handed over my £1.50. Not the best programme in the world but I'm sure there will be a lot worse north of the border than this one.

The social club was busy before the game and there is a souvenir shop located in one corner. It was good to see supporters of both sides mingling in the bar before the game and the Shire brought a healthy following with them. Why then were they not allowed to stand together in the ground? Segregation at this level of football is very sad.

Overall, the football wasn't good but it was a nice day out.