

TT No. 116: *Ian Hill* - Sun 7th November 2010: Dutch Jupiler Eredivise - **Feyenoord** 1-1 Roda JC; Attendance: 38,000; Admission: 27.50 Euros; Programme: Two available; FGIF Match Rating: 3*.

The Club - Feyenoord

One of the big three in the Netherlands Feyenoord are located in the Feijenoord district of southern Rotterdam and is named after the district in which the club was founded. More frequent appearances in international tournaments led the club to change its name in 1974, because foreign fans unfamiliar with the Dutch language did not know how to pronounce.

Getting There

There are various options available. The stadium has its own railway station which is open on matchdays. I travelled by tram from the Central Station using a specific matchday tram although you can use the number 23.

The Stadium

De Kuip (The Tub) is a great stadium but this is the grounds "nickname" with the official title being Feyenoord Stadion. It was built in 1937 and is one of the major stadiums in Europe. This was my second visit as I previously attended a European Championship fixture between Germany and Portugal. The stadium holds 51,117 spectators who are all seated but a lot of people at the game decided to stand. My seat was in section HH which was next to the away supporters. They were fenced in by glass panels with anti-climb railings on top and caged in with netting. Not the best view I would suspect!

The view I had was good although the section was quite empty. I also had the company of a group of Police Officers who spent the game videoing and taking pictures of various spectators who aroused their interest during the game. I thought I may have problems getting a ticket but I easily registered on the club's ticket selling section of their website and purchased in advance. I didn't think I was able to do this. I collected the ticket two days in advance with no problems at all and I didn't have to produce my passport.

Outside of the stadium are numerous stalls selling food such as Chips or Burgers. Be advised to avoid the satay sauce on the chips. It's an extremely acquired taste. There are also numerous vans selling an array of club souvenirs. Food is available inside the ground but you must purchase a smart card from machines which only accept certain credit/debit cards to pay for it. No coins or notes are accepted.

In December 2006, Feyenoord director Chris Woerts announced that Feyenoord were developing plans to build a new stadium which would have a capacity of roughly 90,000 seats. The stadium would most likely be placed on the Meuse river, the river that runs through Rotterdam, and should be completed by 2016.

In May 2008 Woerts announced further details: the club is aiming for a stadium with a capacity of around 100.000 seats. If possible, a capacity of over 130.000 should be realized according to Woerts, which would earn the title of biggest stadium in Europe. The club emphasised its efforts to make it a true football stadium with seats close to the pitch. The stadium will get a retractable roof so that other events can be held as well. According to plans, the stadium should be ready in 2016.

Programmes

Quite unusually two programmes were issued for the game and it was only by chance I found the second one. The first programme is sold outside the stadium and priced at 1.50 Euros. It's a full colour glossy issue of 72 pages and B4 in size. The second is another Z Press issue but it's the best one I've seen. A5 in size it has 32 pages but it is very colourful and free of charge. I was seated in the top deck of the stadium. At half time I walked down the massive staircase and found a pile of the programmes at the bottom. Not realising it was a programme I just picked one up and only found out after the game that the programme is classed as the official Feyenoord issue. So, the programmes are a bit of a mystery. Are they both official issues? As the club do not own De Kuip the programme sold outside may be an issue produced by the company that owns the stadium.

The Game

Feyennord are struggling and are probably still reeling from the recent 10-0 defeat at PSV. A tight game was dominated by mistakes from both sides. Roda took a half time lead with a great header which Feyenoord cancelled out in the second half. It leaves both sides down towards the relegation play off places.

Overall Impression

I've always wanted to go to a Feyenoord game for a while and I was not disappointed. The crowd was slightly subdued but the acoustics are great when the crowd get excited.

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