

**TT No.209: Ian Hill** - Sat 26th February 2011; **Solihull Moors** v Workington Reds; Blue Square North; Result: 2-0; Att: 267; Admission: £10.00; Programme: £2.00; Rating: 2.

#### Solihull Moors

Solihull Moors were founded in 2007 by the merger of Moor Green FC and Solihull Borough FC.

#### Damson Park

Damson Park is a former golf driving range which was converted into a football ground. The capacity of the ground is 3050 and it is located next to the Land Rover plant in Solihull. The club also share the ground with Birmingham & Solihull Rugby Union Club. The ground hasn't changed since my last visit except for a scoreboard which has been installed for the Rugby Union Club.

A seated stand dominates the ground along one side with cover behind one of the goals. Uncovered hard standing makes up the other two sides of the ground. There is a nice club shop on site with a good selection of badges and programmes available.

The clubhouse is located outside of the ground and is a large facility. It does still have the feel of a golf clubhouse but the club have worked hard to rectify this with a large display of football shirts on the ceiling in one of the bars.

#### The game

A good first half with two evenly matched teams. Unfortunately, from a Workington perspective, two incidents in the first half changed the course of the game. An excellent worked goal was disallowed for offside and a Workington player, clean through on goal, was brought down in the penalty area by the last defender. No penalty awarded and a free kick outside the box was given. Why was the Solihull player not sent off?

The teams went in 0-0 at half time but two Solihull goals early in the second half sealed a comfortable win for the home side.

#### Referee Watch

After watching quite a few games at Blue Square North level it is clear that the general standard refereeing is not very good. If a Midlands-based side are at home to a northern based one, with a local referee in charge, then any 50-50 call will go in favour of the home side. If a referee does put in a good first half performance they generally have to put up with a lot of squealing and harassment from both sides. The team that shouts the loudest will get the majority of decisions in their favour in the second half. Unfortunately, today's game changed on two crucial decisions in Solihull's favour due to two contentious incidents.

Mr D.P. Plowright of Nottingham you had a shocker and your assistants were just as bad.

#### Programme

Match programmes are on sale as you enter the ground through the turnstiles. The programme is quite a good issue consisting of 36 A5 colour glossy pages with a price of £2.00. Unfortunately, the programme editor was under the impression that Workington AFC is called Workington Town. This unfortunate mistake has happened a few times in the past but has not reared its ugly head for quite a while. For the record Workington Town are a Rugby League side.

#### Overall

I can't say it's one of my favourite football grounds but it is functional and does the job it is designed to do.

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