

**TT No.285: *Ian Hill*** - Tue 27th April 2011; **Gilford Park** v Marske United FC; STL Northern League Division 2; Result: 0 - 2; Att: 70; Admission: £4.00; Programme: £1.00; Rating: 2.

### Background

At last a chance to see Carlisle club, Gilford Park, play a home game. Many of you will know that Gilford Park FC was banned by their landlords, the Carlisle Railway Club, from playing at their ground. I won't go into details as I don't know the exact details of the current legal situation but if you do an internet search you can easily find out the story. Personally, this is one of my favourite grounds as I played Rugby League here for Carlisle RLFC. Gilford Park Stadium is a great little ground; unfortunately, due to the pathetic dispute it is a bit neglected. Hopefully the club can get some support and funding to restore it.

### Fancy a Pint

There's the Railway Club next door to the ground but I don't know if people attending football games are allowed in there. Some of the Railway Club committee were patrolling in the shared car park outside both venues. Football spectators were not allowed to park here as there was a BIG BINGO NIGHT taking place so we all had to park inside the ground which was a very tight squeeze. Even if I was allowed to go into the Railway Club (Jeremy Kyle Social Club) there is no way I would frequent the premises.

### The Ground

Currently the ground has two seated stands. One is behind a goal and the other running alongside the side of the pitch. Seats in the stand behind the goal have been damaged so it was only partially open. The other stand is closed for safety reasons. I'm not sure why. The area behind the opposite goal is closed off and the final side of the ground is fully covered with a few steps of terracing.

It also looks like it will be a while before Rugby League is played at the ground again as the new East Cumbria Crusaders side, which, was formed after Carlisle Centurions (another former tenant of the ground) folded will play out of Creighton RFC this year.

### The Game

Not the best quality football but there was a bit of tension as Marske needed to win to secure promotion. They were the better team on the night and deserved their 2-0 win.

### Programme

Programmes are available from the turnstile. It's basic issue but there were some very interesting articles regarding the bitter ground dispute. I was very happy that

there was an issue but I wouldn't have been surprised if the club hadn't issued due to their problems.

Overall

This is a great little ground to visit and is a bit unique as it looks older than it actually is. The club needs your support and I would highly recommend a visit.

07/20