

TT No.51: *Ian Hill* - Mon 30th August 2010; **Workington Reds** v Vauxhall Motors; Blue Square Bet North; Res: 2-1; Att: 707; Admission: £12; Programme: £2 (48pp); FGIF Match Rating: **.

Workington maintained their unbeaten start to the 2010-2011 season with a scrappy win against Vauxhall Motors. This was my first visit to Borough Park after the West Cumbria floods and there have been changes made to the ground and the area. The access road to the collapsed Northside Bridge has been closed off and is now being used as a car park by supporters. A new temporary bridge over the river Derwent is now in place on the opposite side of Borough Park along with a new access road to it. Part of the Town End of the ground, behind the terraces, has been used for the new road which in turn has seen two new turnstile blocks, new fencing and a new access road to the ground constructed. It has tidied up this end of the ground considerably.

Inside Borough Park six new floodlight pylons are in place for the new lights which will replace the ones originally purchased from Manchester United in the 1950's. Unfortunately, four of the new pylons run along the "Popular" side of the ground on the side of the pitch as do the other two on the Grandstand side. It does affect the sightlines but at least the club is moving forward with its plans to improve Borough Park. After the complete farce of the so called new "Super Stadium" Allerdale Council are now working with the club to improve the facilities and have made a substantial donation towards the cost of the new lights. The club itself has set up a fund-raising scheme to build a new grandstand on the site of the current one. So far 50k has been raised with an anticipated build date of 2013. Workington supporters are extremely happy regarding the ground situation as there were fears that the club could become another stadium casualty like Runcorn or Leigh RMI/Genesis. There was so much false information peddled about a new stadium - it was going to have four stands, then two, then four again if required - it was going to have 10,000 seats then it was 6,000, then 4,000. Derwent Park, home of Workington Town RLFC, was going to be demolished and Workington Comets speedway club made homeless. Then Derwent Park was not going to be demolished and the Comets would stay there. The fantastic Borough Park has survived and Workington supporters will not have a soulless tin shed ground as their new home. Tesco's who were to provide the bulk of the money for the stadium and leisure facilities have still not signed contracts with the council for a land purchase and there is no way Allerdale BC would find the shortfall for the construction in the current economic climate.

Vauxhall came for a point and nearly got it. The Reds replied with a late winner in a poor game which was spoilt by a poor referee. A sign of a bad referee is when both sets of players start whinging and have sympathy with each other. Unfortunately, the man in black wanted to be the centre of attention and he certainly was. A very frustrating day for both sides and supporters.

The win took the Reds up to second in the table after an impressive start to the season as they remained unbeaten after six games.

07/20