

TT No. 188: Ian Hill - Fri 9 March 2012: Dutch Eredivisie: **Roda JC Kerkrade** 3-1 VVV Venlo; Attendance: 16,033; Admission 20 euros; Programme 50 cents.

Getting There: I travelled by bus from Heerlen railway station, the bus station is next door. The "Stadion" bus stop is about a 5-minute walk from Parkstad Limburg Stadion.

The Ground: On the outside it looks like a shopping centre. Two sides of the ground have shop/offices on their outer walls. There are four corner entrances to the ground. I managed to go into the wrong one twice before I was third time lucky and found the family stand behind the ground. Getting a ticket at some Dutch grounds can be difficult due to security issues. I emailed the club in advance and had a ticket reserved for collection and payment on the evening of the game.

Eventually when I got into the stadium, I was seated in one of the corner sections. The rake and design of the stands are very good so the view was fine. In the concourses you can buy match programmes at 50 cents each. It's a poor issue in reflection to the club's status but for less than 50p you cannot complain. The concourses are decorated by various club murals, some of which depict the clubs mining history. In the family stand a large number of yellow flags are distributed before the game and then collected after kick off so they can be used for future fixtures.

The stadium is seated on all four sides and has a capacity of 19,979.

Programmes: It's an A5 issue in full colour consisting of 24 pages. It is produced by ZPress Company who publish programmes for a number of clubs in the area. So, the design is quite universal and lacks a bit of individual identity.

The Game: VVV dominated the first half and should have been leading by at least 4 goals at half time. This was to be their undoing as it was role reversal in the second half with Roda scoring three unanswered goals.

The Correct Name: Roda's full name is - Sport Vereniging Roda Juliana Combinatie Kerkrade. In 2010, the club added "Kerkrade" to its name, so the commonly used name of the club is now Roda JC Kerkrade. This was one of the conditions of the municipality Kerkrade, in exchange for financial help.