

**TT No.33: *Ian Hill*** - Sat 7th May 2011; **Djurgarden IF** v Halmstad BK; Sweden Allsvenskan; Score: 2-0; Admn: 100SEK; Programme: Free; Attendance: 7,239; Match Rating: 3.

### Djurgardens IF

Djurgårdens IF Fotboll, commonly known as Djurgården, locally, is a Swedish football club based at Stadion with a capacity of 14,417, located in the Östermalm district of Stockholm City Centre. They are currently playing in the highest Swedish league, Allsvenskan.

### Getting There

I made the day trip to Stockholm flying out of London Stansted using Ryanair to Stockholm Skvasta Airport. Skvasta is approximately a one and half hour journey by coach from the Centre of Stockholm. Be warned - one coach per hour runs to Stockholm, so you need to get off the plane as quickly as possible, to ensure a place on the coach. Payment can be made in advance on the internet or by credit card only on the coach. Cash is not accepted. I didn't realise that a "sort of" queue was in operation to get on the coach. My accidental "pushing in" led to a "back heel" to the shins and an elbow to the ribs from a very nice Swedish lady.

Getting back is also problematic as you have to queue inside the main bus station in Stockholm. People are then let through chamber type turnstiles a few at a time to board. I arrived 45 minutes before the coach was scheduled to leave and was lucky to get a place as a "first come first served" policy operates.

### Getting around Stockholm

I've got to say I was very impressed with Stockholm, although, it is very expensive. Travel to the Stadion is extremely easy on the underground. A day ticket costs in the region of £12.00 but the Stadion station is right next to the Stadion.

### The Stadion

Designed by architect Torben Grut, it was opened in 1912; its original use was as a venue for the 1912 Olympic Games. At the 1912 Games, it hosted the athletics, some of the equestrian, some of the football, gymnastics, the running part of the modern pentathlon, tug of war, and wrestling events. It has a capacity of 13,145-14,500 depending on usage and a capacity of nearly 33,000 for concerts.

As with all athletics stadiums watching football is generally poor. I sat behind one of the goals and I was quite a long way from the action. The Stadion itself, as a building, is fantastic. Refurbishment work has made it a very pleasant place to spend an afternoon. Dominated by two towers at one end of the stadium there are also cloisters behind one seated area.

At one end of the stadium is a grass bank at the back of a stand. Here there is a beer tent with large carpets scattered about for supporters to sit down and enjoy a beer.

### Programme

Programmes are given away free of charge inside the ground but they are very hard to find. I asked a steward where I could find one but there were none available in my section. Very kindly she walked into another section and found one for me. After about 20 minutes of the game two young lads appeared with a bundle of programmes and handed them out to whoever wanted one.

The programme is a 20-page colour glossy issue.

### The Game

The game was poor between two sides at the bottom of the league.

### New Stadium

Djurgarden may leave the Stadion in two years' time. There are plans to build a new stadium on the site of the Ostermalms stadium which is next door. Luckily, I was able to watch a game there before my scheduled fixture as Djurgarden Ladies were at home to city rivals Hammarby. It's a strange venue. It looks like a former athletics stadium which has been redesigned for football. An old main seated stand dominates the on one side of the ground with the other three out of bounds to spectators. The stadium has a 4G pitch and part of it has taken up  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the running track. There is a main pitch in the middle with two smaller 7-a-side pitches behind each goal. It looks like it is split into three pitches for junior games. Posts are also in place for American football.

Admission was 10 SEK with a 32-page A5 programme given away for free.

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