

**TT No.41: Ian Brown** - Sat 10th September - **Yoker Athletic** v Benburb; West of Scotland Central District Div. 1; Venue: Holm Park; Result: 2-1; Admission: £4; Prog: n/a; Scotch Pie: £1; Att: 60 (Liverpool H/C).

Yoker otherwise known as: An t-lochdar in Scottish Gaelic is a western district of Glasgow, lying on the northern bank of the Clyde to the east of Clydebank. It is located about 5 miles west of Glasgow City Centre. From the 14th Century a ferry linked Yoker with the burgh of Renfrew on the south bank. Although shipbuilding has declined the Yarrow's shipyard now owned by BAE as part of BAE Systems Surface Ships is still in operation on the main Yoker/Scotstoun boundary.

As mentioned earlier name Yoker is an Anglicisation of the of the Scottish Gaelic lochdar meaning a low-lying place; the name was attested for the first time in 1505 and is one of a number of place names in the area which suggest the longevity of the Gaelic language in the Clyde Valley north of Glasgow.

Yoker Athletic were formed in 1886. They are based in Clydebank as their Holm Park base is just outside the Glasgow boundary. Nicknamed the 'Whe Ho. Ironically Clydebank are tenants at Holm Park since 2009 after leaving their ground in Duntocher. Yoker Athletic can boast of a mention in Scottish Literature; James Kelman's novel A Disaffection features the main character attending a match at Holm Park.

£3.20 return from Glasgow (in 20 minutes) along the North Clyde Line you arrive at Yoker. Come out of the station and right into Mill Road, then right into Glasgow Road and Holm Park comes into view on the left. On arrival we entered Holm Park via the entrance gate with the Yoker Crest emblazoned on it. You are behind one of the goals and on the right-hand side there is terracing which runs the length of the pitch. On the left-hand side there is more terracing and some barrelled roof cover.

On the 'opp-oosite' side as you go in there is the club which houses the dressing rooms below and the bar upstairs. It was there we met Campbell Bissland who I had spoken to earlier on as our original plan had been defeated by the weather. As mementoes of our visit he gave us some badges also a Pie and Hot Drink, we offered to pay but he wouldn't take anything for them. So, we put the money in "tips box" on the bar.

The terracing on the left-hand side only goes to just the before the halfway line where the barrel roofed cover starts, which straddles the halfway line. After the cover ends an overgrown bank exists. There is no standing behind the far goal - it is just an overgrown area.

We positioned ourselves on the Main Road side terracing. Overhead planes were making their descent into Glasgow Airport. Yoker took the lead when Neil

Schoneville headed the hosts in front. The game ebbed and flowed despite some debatable decisions by the man in yellow. H.T 1-0.

Just after half time Yoker missed a golden opportunity to secure the points when Gary Bissland had his weak spot kick saved by the Burb keeper. On 65 minutes Steven Waddell got a deserved equaliser after hesitancy in the hosts defence. 10 minutes later Gary Bissland redeemed himself by snatching the winner.

07/20