

**TT No.32:** *Ian Brown* - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September; **Donegal Celtic** v Newington YC; Bluefin Sport Premier Intermediate League; Result: 1-2; Admission: £5 (no concessions); Programme: No; Attendance: less than 100; Catering: "Dermos Chippy Van" - Teas, Coffees, Soft Drinks, Chips, Burgers, Hot Dogs & Filled Sodas.

Donegal Celtic was formed in 1970 when a group of young men who had a huge interest in football decided to form a team in the Lenadoon district of West Belfast.

With no facilities, kits, pitch or equipment, the first few years were spent playing friendlies and entering local summer competitions which helped to enhance and promote their reputation and name. They registered their chosen name with the Irish Football League, taking the name from the area they were based, Lenadoon, Gweedore, Glenveagh are all local areas named after towns in County Donegal, with the Celtic part being taken on due to the massive local following for Glasgow Celtic, and formerly Belfast Celtic.

To reach Donegal Celtic Park from Belfast City Centre by bus take the 10B (towards Poleglass, Glenkeen) & 10F (towards Lagmore View). Alight at Suffolk Heights, Hannahstown, where it is a short stroll to the ground

The ground sits on the side of a hill. The Social Club and the ground floor of the clubhouse sit lower than the pitch. On the side of the social club there is a mural depicting "a huddle" the club crest and a former player Paul "Maxi" McVeigh", impressive it looks too, the two-storey clubhouse leads out to the ground car park, the players have a fair walk to reach the pitch, between two small *Atcost* structures.

As mentioned above two 75 seat structures flank the players entrance. To the right of the *Atcost* structure is a long low cover leading down towards the Suffolk Road end of the ground. To the left-hand side is the Main Stand - which seats 568 speccies over 12 rows. Beyond this is the Glen Forest End, basically a narrow strip of concrete. Opposite the main stand is another covered structure providing both seating and standing; 315 seats on 5 rows with a wide area at the rear. The rest of this side is a raised narrow strip of concrete leading towards the away turnstile on Suffolk Road. The Suffolk Road end is basically a grass verge with again a narrow strip of concrete providing hard standing. The stadium control tower dominates the corner of the Suffolk Road End.

The game was competitive enough but seemed to fall down when the ball reached the danger zones. Before the game the Chairman came over to speak us, a nice touch. Half time 0-0.

Newington took the lead when Peter Gilgun slotted home after hesitancy in the homesters' rearguard. Shortly afterwards a Conal Burns penalty doubled the

visitors the lead. DC set up a grandstand finish by converting a penalty given away by the keeper.

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