



Keep It On The Island!

A Tour of the Football Grounds in the Faroe Islands

by Tim Lancaster



This book aims to capture the unique atmosphere of football grounds in the Faroe Islands and the spectacular scenery surrounding these venues. A country of 49,287 inhabitants, its emerging football team is ranked 122nd out of 211 countries in the FIFA World Rankings as of October 2022.

The Faroe Islands have a four-tier League structure:

- Betri Deildin Faroe Islands Premier League
- 1. deild • 2. deild • 3. deild

There is promotion and relegation between the four divisions with the lower divisions mostly being made up of reserve sides and third teams. My intention for this book was to photograph every ground in use on the Faroe Islands as well as defunct clubs where a ground still existed and the ground is no longer used. However, there were some grounds we could not visit as all required ferry crossings. Fortunately these grounds feature on www.nordicstadiums.com - the excellent website run by Terje Mollestad. His willingness to provide us with images is much appreciated.

The title comes from a cry from fans on another, very very different island, the Isle of Dogs. An ex-Cray Wanderers centre half, Jack Graham, was known for booting the ball wildly out of defence. Somehow the thought of rugged Faroe Islanders watching at any one of the open, scenic grounds by the sea using a similar cry to those Victorian Millwall fans just appeals to us.

Grounds are listed island by island. Consulting the map on page 80 will help readers to understand the islands' names and locations. Coming to terms with the complicated club names will not be so easy!

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Above: NSÍ Runavík.

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**HB Tórshavn**

**Ovari Vøllur,
Gundadalur Stadium,
Tórshavn, Streymoy
Capacity 5000,
All seated**

B36 Tórshavn



Gundadalur is a large complex with three grounds, the Ovari Vøllur or Upper Field, the Niðari Vøllur or Lower Field (see the back cover) and Tórsvøllur (see pages 72-77), the Faroe Islands National Stadium.



Gundadalur accommodates HB and B36 on the Ovari Vøllur. Giza/Hoyvík and Undrið FF have both in the past played on the Niðari Vøllur. Ovari Vøllur abuts The National Stadium at one corner of the ground with the Niðari Vøllur adjacent to both.

Gundadalur was built in 1909 and staged its first game in 1911. The ground is home to both HB and B36 on the Ovari Vøllur and in the past both Giza/Hoyvík and Undrið FF played on the Niðari Vøllur.

There are 5,000 seats in three stands. Both HB and B36 have their own separate clubhouses and identical stands on the side of the pitch adjacent to Tórsvøllur. HB's has red and black seats while B36's seats are black and white. Home fans can sit in either stand other than at derby games.

A much older stand, usually for away fans, is situated on the side opposite the twin stands. There is also flat standing at one end and bench seating behind the other goal, with a large scoreboard at the top of the grass bank. As with all grounds in the Faroe Islands there is public access at all times so you can simply walk in or even pass through the ground at will.



HB Tórshavn, the third oldest club in the Faroes, were founded in 1904. The club have a rich history including an early foreign tour and matches against British soldiers in WW2.

B36 Tórshavn were officially founded in March 1936 but had played matches in 1935. HB have won the Premier League 28 times and B36 have been Champions 11 times.





Argja Bóltfelag
Inni í Vika Stadium
Argir , Streymoy
Capacity 2000, 415 seats



AB Argir play at Inni í Vika Stadium, currently known as Skansi Arena for sponsorship reasons. The club are located in Argir, once a village but now a suburb of Tórshavn. The club were formed in 1973 and used a school playground in the early days as at the time there was no sports field in Argir. Gundadalur, home of HB Tórshavn and B36 Tórshavn, was later used for training and matches.

Inni í Vika was built in 1983 and is the southernmost ground on Streymoy. In 1985 the existing clubhouse was built for the club. Initially AB occupied the lower storey with the upper section used as a school classroom, but in 2004 the club acquired the whole building.





The ground has a capacity of 2,000 with 415 seats in an aesthetically-pleasing elevated stand. Built into the hillside, it has a typically Faroese-feel, although the stand resembles many stands in the United Kingdom and would not look out of place in The National League or the lower divisions in Scotland. Like many in the Faroe Islands, Inni í Vika Stadium acts as a community facility for the village.



FC Hoyvík
Hoyvíksvøllur
Hoyvík, Streymoy
Capacity 1000, no seats

Hoyvíksvøllur was opened in June 2017, has a capacity of 1,000 and is situated in the town of Hoyvík, a north-eastern suburb of Tórshavn. Since the 1980's Hoyvík has seen a development boom and many new houses are being built on what were farms and fields.



The club's history is complex and is best divided in two parts, the first FC Hoyvík and the current FC Hoyvík. The original club began life as ÍF Fram Tórshavn, founded on January 12th 1975. The club played in 1. deild in 1977, but were relegated and never achieved promotion again. They remain the only Faroese club to have played in all four divisions. The home ground was the 500-capacity Niðari vøllur (Lower Field) at Gundadalur (see the back cover).

In 2008 ÍF Fram Tórshavn changed its name to FC Hoyvík and in 2012 merged with FF Giza to become Giza Hoyvík. FF Giza, only formed in 2008, also played at Niðari vøllur and previously used Inni í Vika, home of AB Argir. The club changed the name back to FC Hoyvík in 2018.

As with all Faroese grounds, I simply walked in and it appeared a women's match had just finished. The ground is still in a developmental stage and I imagine the club will further improve it when time and money allows.

Hoyvíksvøllur was developed by digging into gently sloping ground with quarried walls now forming an impressive backdrop to one side and an end.

Dressing rooms and a single storey wooden clubhouse are situated by some of the new development that has seen the settlement become a suburb of Tórshavn.

On the opposite side to the clubhouse are the dugouts, with open hard standing on all four sides. The ground gives the impression of being very high up and overlooks Tórshavn below.





The ground is also home to 1. deild club Undrið FF who are one of the youngest clubs of the Faroe Islands Football Association having been formed in 2006. Before the move to Hoyvíksvøllur Undrið FF were also resident at Niðari vøllur. They currently play in a higher division than FC Hoyvik but it is the FC Hoyvik name that is clearly on display all around the venue.



Hoyvíksvøllur made a real impression on me. It has that indefinable, special quality about it which appeals to a groundhopper. I think that with the club's location and chance to draw on players from the capital they are set for a bright future as the area around them rapidly develops.



E/B Streymur
Við Margáir
Streymnes, Streymoy
Capacity 2000, 500 seats



Við Margáir is one of two grounds used by E/B Streymur, the club playing at Vøllurin í Hólmanum (see pages 22 - 25) every other season. E/B Streymur were formed in 1993 after a merger between Streymur Hvalvík and Eiði Bóltfelag. Both these clubs had traditionally played their football in the second or third division. The club first played at Á Mølin, the Eiði Bóltfelag ground, some seventeen kilometres away on Eysturoy (see pages 26 - 31). Á Mølin was later abandoned.

Við Margáir is situated in the village of Streymnes, on Streymoy. The entrance to the ground is down a narrow road that opens up into a large car park behind the stand. This impressive structure ensures that over half of one side is catered for with seated cover. The other three sides are open and as with all Faroese grounds you can just wander in and we even had a kick-about with the footballs which are scattered all over the place at most grounds. The stand also acts as a central hub for various aspects of village life. I especially liked the way this exposed venue afforded views for many miles around towards the gentle rolling mountains beyond.

In February 2018 the local council in Sunda Kommune decided to make various improvements to Við Margáir stadium. The main stand was extended and more seats added, raising the seating capacity to 500, and indoor space was created. The extension of the roof provided more cover for supporters. The floodlights were also upgraded.

E/B Streymur have now played at three different grounds in their history after Á Mølin and Vøllurin í Hólmanum, both of which are in Eiði.









E/B Streymur
Vøllurin í Hólmanum
Eiði, Eysturoy
Capacity 1500, 300 seats

Vøllurin í Hólmanum is the stadium in Eiði where E/B Streymur play in alternate seasons. The ground has a capacity of 1,500 with 300 seats and is located in the centre of the village.

There is a good main stand and lovely section of terracing, built from stones and topped with grass, next to the stand and along behind one goal for a short way. I especially love the backdrop of the village church. For a place with such a small population it is a wonderful facility.

Photo: Duncan McKay



Photo: Duncan McKay



Photo: Dave Harry



Photo: Dave Harry



Eiðis Bóltfelag
Á Mølini
Eiði, Eysturoy
Capacity 1000, no seats

The village club Eiðis Bóltfelag were founded in 1913, and played at Á Mølini. In 1993 the club merged with Streymur Hvalvik, founded in 1976, to become E/B Streymur. The new club continued to play at Á Mølin.

Although there is only a clubhouse along the south side, this ground is recognisable worldwide as one of Faroe Islands' most iconic venues. This location is stunning, set between the Norwegian Sea and Lake Niðara Vatn, a piece of which was infilled to accommodate the facilities. The ground is the country's northernmost sports ground.

Eiðis Bóltfelag were the oldest club on Eysturoy Island and one of the most remote. Á Mølin was built between 1913 and 1916.

Eiðis Bóltfelag played its first game in 1916 against nine men from Fuglafjørður. This was because the pitch dimensions did not allow for an eleven-a-side game. After the founding of The Faroese Sports Association in 1942, Eiðis Bóltfelag played in the second and third divisions before the merger with neighbours Streymur Hvalvik.

The term 'neighbouring' was hardly that as the journey from Streymnes to Eiðis is sixteen kilometres. The journey today may only take seventeen minutes but Streymnes is on the neighbouring island of Streymoy and the journey takes the traveller across a bridge onto Eysturoy to reach Eiðis.





The ground is now a campsite called Eiði Camping and the old clubhouse forms part of the campsite facilities.

Á Mølin is reached by driving to the end of a narrow track, now only nervously negotiated by campervans and caravans. Visitors will no doubt be delighted to find a venue set between the cliffside and the sea, which is some thirty feet from the old touchline. They can only imagine what visiting for a match must have been like in winter when retrieving balls from the sea must have been a regular occurrence.

I wonder what the fans once shouted as a defender desperately booted a clearance? Could it possibly make the title of a book?







NSÍ Runavík
Við Løkin
Runavík, Eysturoy
Capacity 1500, 450 seats

NSI Runavík play at Við Løkin on Eysturoy, a very tidy ground situated on the main road through Runavík at one end of the village. The full name of the club is Nes Sóknar Ítróttarfelag, and translates to The Sports Club of the Nes Municipality. What I noticed about the village was how urbanised and different it is from most of the other smaller villages in the Faroe Islands, the main street could almost have been anywhere in the United Kingdom.

When you reach the football stadium there is a nice club sign to greet you and a yellow and black club building that resembles something on the seafront at Weymouth or Scarborough. I presume it is where you buy match tickets. There is a large car park behind the main stand which is clad with wood on the exterior.



Inside there are yellow and black seats running the entire length of the structure, a tv gantry is situated in the centre of the stand. Archive photos on the Nordic Stadiums website show that in 2014 this area of seating was uncovered and open to the elements, very much like the spectacular provision at nearby Svangaskarð in Toftir and at Tórsvøllur in Tórshavn before the ground was renovated.

Opposite the stand are dugouts and many advertising hoardings where some cover is provided. Both ends are open although one has a large sports complex behind the goal which offers some shelter.



Sadly Við Løkin is not approved by UEFA so NSÍ have had to play all their European matches in Toftir or Tórshavn. The club is finding themselves closer to the Tórshavn clubs in several ways and the club are

experiencing their best years on-field. The building of the Eysturoyartunnin has seen travelling time reduced dramatically between the islands of Eysturoy and Streymoy, cutting out a lengthy drive around Skálafjørður.



B68 Toftir
Svangaskarð
Toftir, Eysturoy
Capacity 6000, 3500 seats

B68 Toftir's ground Svangaskarð is also known as Tofta Leikvøllur and between 1991 and 1999 was the home to the Faroe Islands national team until Tórsvøllur was built in the capital Tórshavn.



Svangaskarð was first opened in 1980 and had a gravel pitch for the first few years with no changing room buildings other than a simple hut. In 1984 proper changing facilities were built coinciding with B68 Toftir winning their first Faroese Championship. In 1987 artificial grass was laid. Two years later, in July 1989, they added an athletics strip around the football field at Lilit Svangaskarð, the smaller ground below Svangaskarð (left), in time for the Island Games held in the Faroe Islands that year.

When the Faroe Islands beat Austria 1-0 in a European Championship qualifying tie played in Sweden in 1990 there was no football pitch in the Faroe Islands which met UEFA standards. The people of Toftir decided to improve Svangaskarð, set high above the village, equipping the ground with all the necessary facilities required by UEFA. The previous seating was replaced and the stands were officially opened in October 1991.



A tall structure houses all the club facilities, covered seats and Executive boxes. On either side steep open seating stretches to the corner flags. The ground is cut into the hillside, and open seating is backed by a rock face along the far touchline. There are wooden benches behind the goal to the left and behind the goal to the right the hillside offers some shelter to further seating. A record attendance of 6,642 was set for the visit of Malta in a World Cup Qualifier in 1997.



Svangaskarð has staged European club matches for B68, NSÍ Runavík, B36 Tórshavn, Vikingur Gøta and HB Tórshavn.

This ground certainly has some history and is one of my favourite venues in the Faroe Islands. There are not many international stadiums where spectators negotiate a steep hill among the houses to reach the ground.



Víkingur Gøta
Sarpugerði
Norðragøta, Eysturoy
Capacity 1600, 440 seats

Norðragøta is a village on Eysturoy with a population of just 668 and is home to Víkingur Gøta, an emerging force in Faroe Islands football. Formed in 2008 by a merger of LÍF Leirvík (see page 64) and GÍ Gøta, the new club play at GÍ's Sarpugerði ground. The club name commemorates a Viking chief.

Norðragøta and Leirvík are separated by a 2.2 kilometre tunnel that cuts through a mountain and after the merger the new club took the ground of GÍ Gøta as the club's home. The stadium has a capacity of 1,600 with 440 seats in an impressive looking stand. Approaching Sarpugerði gives a great view of the ground, dwarfed by the vast mountain beyond.

Apart from the seated stand and the car park the ground is still relatively undeveloped, with a stream running alongside the far touchline and flat standing on three sides.





GÍ Gøta had been a very successful side before the merger with LÍF Leirvík , picking up four titles in the 1990's. For a village of this size it is incredible that they have participated regularly in The UEFA Cup and in The Champions League.

I took a walk up into the stand which provides a great view of the pitch but like so many Faroese grounds non-locals probably spend as much time in awe of the surroundings as concentrating on what is happening on the pitch.





Skála ÍF
Undir Mýruhjalla
Skála, Eysturoy
Capacity 1400, 300 seats

Skála Ítróttarfelag, the club's full name, are located on Eysturoy Island with Skálafjørður, the longest fjord in the Faroe Islands, separating the village from Runavík and Tøftir. The recently-constructed Eysturoyartunnin undersea road tunnel makes travel to the other side of the fjord much easier as well as giving far quicker access to Tórshavn.

Skála is home to the largest shipyard in the Faroe Islands although the population of the village is listed as just 751.



The ground has a capacity of 1,200 with an impressive 300-seat main stand with a pair of what appear to be press boxes painted pitch black in the centre. The stand and two areas of terracing on either side are built into the hillside behind.

Opposite the stand is another black edifice in the form of a camera gantry mounted on a hut perched high above the fjord and shipyard below. When we visited it was being painted even more pitch black. Also on this side is an impressive scoreboard that would not look out of place at any EFL ground, other than the fact that the backdrop is slightly more dramatic.



Four corner floodlights complete this impressive arena, replacing the original six pylons seen in older photographs. Opened in 1968, and renovated in 2007, the ground hosted the Faroe Islands Cup final in 1984.



ÍF Fuglafjørður
Í Fløtugerði
Fuglafjørður, Eysturoy
Capacity 1200, 360 seats

Í Fløtugerði was one of my favourite football grounds on the Faroe Islands. With a capacity of 1,200 the ground's 360 seats are set well above the pitch on the hillside. ÍF Fuglafjørður began purchasing the land in the northern part of the town in November 1940, obtaining funding from the municipality and from loans.

The ground was opened in 1956 and renovated in 2008. The record attendance was 1,500 when ÍF defeated TB Tvøroyri 3-1 on August 12th 1979.

The club have played in European competition on three occasions but are unable to play these ties at Í Fløtugerði.



In July 1986 Chester City, then of Football League Division Three, played a pre-season friendly on the shale pitch in Fuglafjørður. ÍF were defeated 2-0. Further games were against B68 Toftir and HB Tórshavn.

No Chester City supporters made the trip to the Faroe Islands.

The club hosted the Faroe Islands Cup final in 1985 between GÍ Gøta and NSÍ Runavík.



LÍF Leirvík
Uppi á Brekku
Leirvík, Eysturoy
Capacity 1000, no seats

LÍF Leirvík were founded in 1928 and were based in Leirvík and merged with GÍ Gøta in 2008 to form Víkingur Gøta (see pages 56 - 59). The Víkingur Gøta senior team plays most matches at Sarpugerði in Norðragøtu 4.8 kilometers away although the club are still based in Leirvík.

Uppi á Brekku is situated high above the village and on one side of the pitch is a blue pavilion with an overhang at the front providing some covered shelter. There are impressive views towards the islands of Kalsoy and Bordoy from the ground.



Photos: Terje Mollestad - www.nordicstadiums.com

07 Vestur
á Dungasandi
Sørvágur, Vágar
Capacity 1400, 250 seats

07 Vestur are located in the middle of the village of Sørvágur and play their home games at á Dungasandi, a ground with a capacity of 1,400.





The history of the club is complex, as with several other of the Faroese clubs. In 1993 FS Vágur formed in a merger of Vágur island clubs SÍF Sandavágur (see page 46 & 47) and Miðvágs Bóltfelag (see pages 48 & 49). The club began a troubled journey.

Sørvágs Ítróttarfelag, who played at the á Dungasandi ground which is home to 07 Vestur today, merged into the club in 1998. In 2003 FS Vágur were relegated from the top division and the club disbanded in 2004. As a result the three clubs separated and regrouped.

FS Vágur re-formed as a new club in 2004, joining forces with Sørvágs Ítróttarfelag in November 2007 under the current name 07 Vestur which refers to the year of formation and the location of Vágur 7 degrees west.

As 07 Vestur are quite a young club they have no European history. The ground at á Dungasandi has 250 seats on a wooden platform opposite the tall pavilion that houses the club's dressing rooms. There is flat standing behind both goals with a fishing boat positioned in one corner.





SÍF Sandavágur / Club 07 Vestur
Sandavágur Stadion
Sandavágur , Vágar
Capacity 1000, no seats

SÍF Sandavágur played in Sandavágur, at Valloyran, on Vágar. Sandavágs Ítróttarfelag, to use their full name, were one of the oldest in the Faroe Islands, founded in 1906, and played in the top division in 1989, 1990 and 1992.

In 1993 the club merged with neighbours Miðvágs Bóltfelag to form FS Vágar. Sørvágs Ítróttarfelag also became part of the move in 1998. After the 2004 season the merger collapsed and SÍF Sandavágur joined 3.deild . The 2007 season was the last time they played adult football and they again became part of 07 Vestur whose name is prominently displayed around the ground.



The village church forms a great backdrop to this ground and is situated behind the goal at the car park end of the ground. A clubhouse and changing area are behind the other goal, adorned with the name 07 Vestur. Dugouts and floodlights complete this nice little venue.

SÍF Sandavágur youth teams continue to play under the original name even after becoming part of 07 Vestur. Sandavágur has a population of 995 and translates as Sandy Bay.



MB Miðvágur
MB Arena
Miðvágur, Vágar
Capacity 1000, no seats



The MB Arena sits on a rare area of flat land in the village of Miðvágur on Vágar at the very end of an inlet. The scenery around the ground makes this a truly dramatic setting.

Miðvágs Bóltfelag, known as MB, were founded in 1905. The MB Arena has flat standing on all four sides of this modest ground which has a pavilion on the Western side and dugouts opposite. A slight overhang in front of the pavilion is adorned with the club badge but is unlikely to offer much shelter on a windy and wet day.

As mentioned elsewhere, the club merged with SÍF Sandavágur to form FS Vágar in 1993. Reforming in 2004, MB were placed in 3. deild to start again. They eventually worked their way up to 2. deild in 2006 and even reached 1. deild in 2009 and 2015 respectively, but on both occasions they finished 10th and bottom of the table.

Adjacent to the ground is a shop where you can buy refreshments and pastries.



Photos bottom left and right: Terje Møllestad - www.nordicstadiums.com



Klaksvíkar Ítróttarfelag
Við Djúpumýrar
Klaksvík, Bordoy
Capacity 2500, 1335 seats

The fishing town of Klaksvík is on the island of Bordoy and was cut off until 2006 when the Norðoyatunnlin (the Northern Isles tunnel) was opened connecting it to Eysturoy.



Founded in 1904, KI are the second-oldest club in the Faroe Islands and are the most eastern-based club in the country. KI Klaksvík play at Við Djúpumýrar, which means By the Deep Marsh. Following the club's recent

successes, regularly qualifying for the Champions League and Europa League, KI have invested heavily in the ground to develop a venue suitable for European matches rather than having to stage games in Tórshavn.



A new open stand with 626 blue seats has been erected behind the goal and a stand with 240 seats on the opposite side of the main stand was built in 2021/22 to increase the capacity.

Við Djúpumýrar now matches UEFA requirements and with seating on three sides the place looks very impressive indeed.



The ground at Við Djúpumýrar has the feel of a proper football ground. A club official allowed me to take as many photographs as I liked and was even showing some Turkish supporters around who were touring the Islands' football grounds prior to the Nations League fixture between Faroe Islands and Turkey later in the week.



TB Tvøroyri
Við Stórá Stadion
Trongisvágur , Suðuroy
Capacity 1600, 324 seats



TB Tvøroyri are now based in the village of Trongisvágur near Tvøroyri on Suðuroy, and having being founded in 1892 are the oldest club in the Faroe Islands.

In November 2011 TB Tvøroyri started building Við Stórá in Trongisvágur, the name meaning By Grand River (see page 68 for their previous ground). Today the stadium has an overall capacity of 1,600, with 324 seats in both a delightful, traditional grandstand and the uncovered seating on both flanks.



Photos: Terje Mollestad - www.nordicstadiums.com



Photos: Terje Mollestad - www.nordicstadiums.com

FC Suðuroy
Vesturi á Eiðinum
Vágur, Suðuroy
Capacity 1500, 340 seats

FC Suðuroy was founded in January 2010 and play at Vesturi á Eiðinum in Vágur. The club evolved from an amalgamation of Vágs Bóltfelag and SÍ Sumba (see page 70) who merged in 2005 to form VB/Sumba. The ground at á Eiðinum was the home of VB and early photographs show matches shortly after the club's formation in 1905.



The capacity at á Eiðinum is 3,000 with 340 seats. It is a ground football fan visitors to the Faroe Islands should try to visit, however one would be advised to allocate a full day so as to incorporate seeing a match here. The views from the ground are stunning, the location up there with Eiði at Á Mølin.



Photos: Terje Mollestad - www.nordicstadiums.com

Royn Hvalba
Á Skørinum
Hvalba, Suðuroy
Capacity 1200, no seats

Á Skørðunum is in the village of Hvalba in northern Suðuroy, and has the only grass pitch in the Faroe Islands, the natural surface fitting in seamlessly on the valley floor. The ground is quite basic with hard standing and no seats, but boasts an impressive number of advertising boards.



Photos: Terje Mollestad - www.nordicstadiums.com

Sí Sumba
Á Krossinum
Sumba, Suðuroy
Capacity 1000, no seats

Sí Sumba's former ground in the village of Sumba is now a campsite. Á Krossinum is in the very south of Suðuroy and was the most

southerly ground in the Faroe Islands. The ground was basic but in a spectacular location on the hillside overlooking the sea.



Photos: Terje Mollestad - www.nordicstadiums.com



Photos: Terje Mollestad - www.nordicstadiums.com

TB Tvøroyri
Sevmýri
Froðba, Suðuroy
Capacity 1000, no seats



Up until 2011 the club played at the Sevmýri Stadium, located near Froðba in the eastern part of the town. The ground has hard standing all round with shallow steps on one side. Sevmýri Stadium has since become a camping site for caravans.

TB Tvøroyri are a member of The Club of Pioneers which aims to connect the world's oldest existing football clubs and lists Sheffield FC, Wrexham, Queens Park and Cliftonville among its members.

Photos: Terje Mollestad - www.nordicstadiums.com

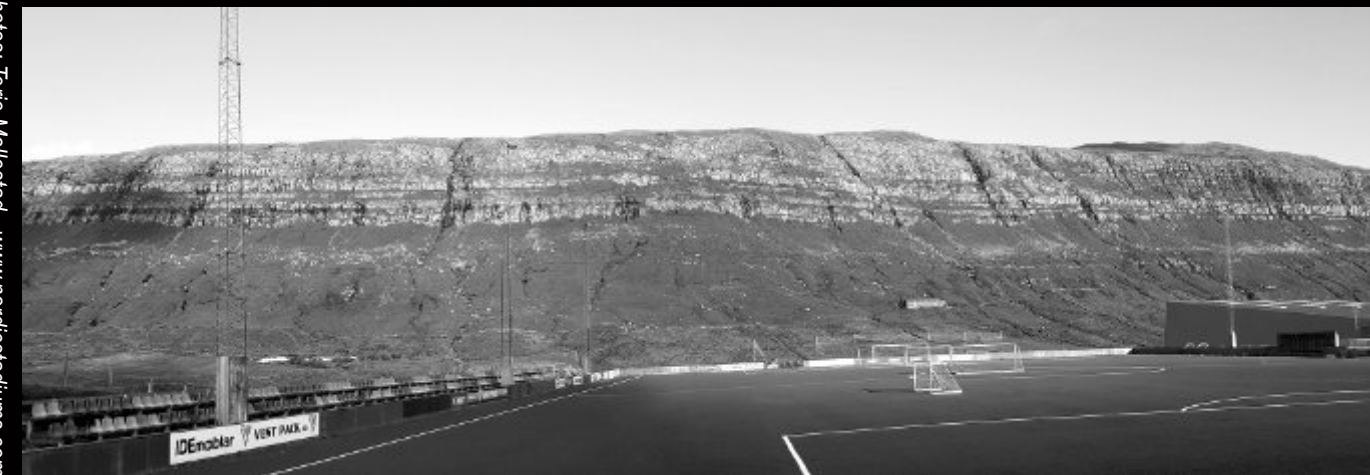
B71 Sandoy
Inni í Dal
Sandur, Sandoy
Capacity 1200, 300 seats

B71 Sandoy are based in the village of Sandur on Sandoy. Inni í Dal translates as 'In the Valley' and is the only stadium on Sandoy.

B71 are one of the youngest football clubs in the country having been founded in 1970.

Originally called Sand, the next year the club's name was changed to B71.

The ground was expanded in 2010 and has seen the facilities improved with seating, a shop that is open on match days and accommodation for television cameras.



Photos: Terje Mollestad - www.nordicstadiums.com

**Tórsvøllur,
Tórshavn, Streymoy
Capacity 6400, all seated**



Tórsvøllur is so vastly different from the early images of the stadium that it can be difficult to ascertain where the seating areas were compared to the layout we see today. Watching footage from 2003 such as Faroe Islands vs Germany or the 2008 clash with Austria were the best way of working it all out and comparing to the current ground.

The stadium was constructed in 1999 in the Sports Centre of Gundadalur in Tórshavn. It was built to become the national stadium for the Faroe Islands whose National team had previously played at Svangaskarð, the home of B68 Tøftir (see pages 60 - 63). Some 18 kilometres away from the capital, this was a difficult drive from Streymoy on to Eysturoy before the Eysturoyartunnin was built.

As so often happens, things didn't go well for a Scottish team in the Faroe Islands in the 1990s. Travelling to Tøftir by ferry, they found their kit had been left on the boat!

Tórsvøllur is for me aesthetically perfect with its varied seating arrangements and the imposing floodlights, once described as resembling giant desk lamps.

The stadium is the biggest in the Faroe Islands and is also used for the Faroe Islands Cup Final and some European club matches. Tórsvøllur initially had a grass pitch but artificial turf was laid in 2012. Both sides were originally open seating. Wood has been used where possible to create an intimate atmosphere and mark the Nordic connection.

The seating in the 2,499 capacity East Stand (see page 74) is the steeper of the two stands. On the other side is the main West Stand with a 1,666 capacity (see opposite).





Behind the West Stand is the lower pitch, Niðari Vøllur (see the back cover), which was home to Giza, Hoyvík and Undrið FF. Ovari Vøllur, the home ground of B36 Tórshavn and HB Torshavn (see pages 2 - 7) is beyond this ground abutting the corner of the South and West Stands.

The double-deck stand at the South end (below), was built in 2014 with a capacity of 898 seats, replacing a temporary tubular structure.





The current glass-panelled multi-functional end of the ground (see left) was covered by advertising hoardings in 2003. By 2008 the area was being dug out for the eventual construction of the only part of Tórsvøllur that is yet to be covered. Today the concrete steps on the roof awaits this final development, part of a Master Plan to further enhance the stadium.



The Tórsvøllur Experience

Walking from the centre of Tórshavn took around twenty minutes, although buses pass the ground, notably the number 1. Nobody appeared to be drinking in the town centre bars on match day but the game we attended was a fairly low-key fixture in the Nations League. During the morning supporters started to filter into the city centre, many arriving at the Tórshavn Bus Terminal.

The SMS Shopping Centre is around five minute walk from the ground. Here is a Burger King and a supermarket, and it may be a good place to eat pre-match as we did not see any hot food stalls outside the stadium as you would find in the UK.

Upon arriving at the ground the Café Bar at Tórsvøllur sells bottled beer, soft drinks and pastries. Next door is the Stadium Store where National team shirts, scarves and souvenirs are on sale.

The Faroe Islands fanatics gather in OY Brewing, which is about a ten minute walk away. Here music, face painting and pre-

match drinking takes place, with the beer and lager quite cheap compared to the prices around the city. Don't be put off by the fact this place is on an industrial estate, it is really lively and decked out in Faroese flags.

Supporters are allowed to drink in the ground from the numerous outlets and with a band, drummers and an all-round great view I can thoroughly recommend coming for a game.



Driving around The Faroe Islands and planning the route was something that I had looked forward to almost as much as visiting the football grounds themselves. I had driven in The Faroe Islands before so was aware of the challenges. The mist, fog and high winds can come and go in an instant. Darkness set in by 19:30 as we made our trip to The Faroe Islands in September.

However, with the trip planned I had a seizure back in May and my driving licence was revoked for a year. Therefore, my twenty-one-year-old son Jake had to take on the responsibility having not long passed his driving test and originally intended coming simply for a break. He was now faced with negotiating trips to Eiði and Fuglafjarðar!



After landing at Vágur Airport around midday on the Thursday we picked up our hire car and did the two kilometre drive to Sørvágur to visit our first ground, home of 07 Vestur. We then took in MB Miðvágur in Miðvágur and another ground used by 07 Vestur at Sandavágur, both these grounds are no more than fifteen minutes' drive from the airport. Before doing this we had visited the optical illusion lake at Sørvágsvatn. The one-hour walk to the lake is weather dependent, don't undertake it in bad weather. If the weather is fine doing the walk after landing will save you some money in tunnel toll fees as it avoids passing back through any sub-sea tunnels unnecessarily to see the attraction after leaving Vágur. Incidentally you either pay the toll fees online or with your hire car company.

On the Friday the route below worked for us when visiting the rest of the football grounds that we needed to drive to:

- Tórshavn grounds at HB, B36 and the national stadium at Tórsvøllur.
- Then 37-kilometre drive to EB/Streymur in the village of Streymnes
- 16 kilometres to Eiði for the old E/B Streymur ground and the new venue that they use alongside the ground in Streymnes.
- 27 kilometres to Skála ÍF
- 17 kilometres to Víkingur Gøta in Norðragøta
- 7.5 kilometres to Fuglafjarðar
- 19 kilometres to Klaksvík for Klaksvíkar Ítróttarfelag
- 26 kilometres to Runavík for NSÍ Runavík
- 3.7 kilometres to Toftir for B68 Toftir

Saturday was an easier day. We made the four kilometre trip to visit AB Argir in the morning before I walked to FC Hoyvík in the northern suburbs of Tórshavn in the afternoon. On Sunday we watched the Faroe Islands play Turkey in The Nations League.

If you are planning a trip it is worth taking into consideration that visiting the grounds on Suduroy would require a whole day as the ferry trip is almost three hours each way. However, a new tunnel will soon make Sandoy far more accessible when it is opened.

My thanks to Jake for driving us around. Without him this book would not have been possible.

Index

Club		Island
07 Vestur	51 - 57	Vágar
Argja Bóltfelag	8 - 11	Streymoy
B36 Tórshavn	2 - 7	Streymoy
B68 Toftir	36 - 39	Eysturoy
B71 Sandoy	71	Sandoy
E/B Streymur	16 - 25	Streymoy
Eiðis Bóltfelag	26 - 31	Eysturoy
FC Hoyvík	12 - 15	Streymoy
FC Suðuroy	66	Suðuroy
HB Tórshavn	2 - 7	Streymoy
Í F Fuglafjørður	48 - 49	Eysturoy
Klaksvíkar Ítróttarfelag	60 - 63	Bordoy
LÍF Leirvík	50	Eysturoy
MB Miðvágur	58 - 59	Vágar
NSÍ Runavík	32 - 35	Eysturoy
Royñ Hvalba	67	Suðuroy
SÍ Sumba	68 - 69	Suðuroy
SÍF Sandavágur	56 - 57	Vágar
Skála ÍF	44 - 47	Eysturoy
TB Tvøroyri	64 - 68, 70	Suðuroy
Víkingur Gøta	40 - 43	Eysturoy
Tórsvøllur	72 - 77	Streymoy



Keep It On The Island!

A Tour of the Football Grounds in the Faroe Islands

Tim Lancaster is well-known as a Yeovil Town fan and was the author of The non-League Football Grounds of Dorset. In the autumn of 2022 Tim was accompanied by his son Jake on a trip to the Faroe Islands. Their intention was to visit as many of the islands' grounds as possible and also take in an International fixture.

This book details their travels and shows the amazing grounds to be found in the Faroe Islands. Many are set in stunning locations with the backdrops of the sea, inlets and bleak, steep hills making for wonderful photographs.

- 80 pages
- 24 grounds
- 21 clubs
- 102 Photos

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