

TT No.228: Mike Latham - Tues 25 Apr 2006: Huws Gray-Fitlock Cymru Alliance. **Buckley Town 0-3 Flint Town United.** Attendance: 110 head-count; Admission: £3; 24pp programme: £1. FGIF Match Rating: 3*.

Since deciding to 'tick off' the Cymru Alliance a year or so ago, I have become quite fond of this particular league and the visit to leaders and reigning champions Buckley Town didn't disappoint.

Near neighbours Flint, founder members of the League of Wales in 1993, arrived in a rich vein of form seven points behind but with a game in hand. They won pretty comfortably in the end and must regret losing three points due to a breach of a league rule though if they finish in the top two could go into the Welsh Premier League next season.

Buckley have already settled for another season in the CA having decided not to pursue with the ground improvements necessary to progress further.

Their Globe Way ground is easily found off the B5127 road leading into the town off the A494 near to Queensferry. An elevated location, with stunning views over Chester and the Dee estuary, it is situated in a pleasant rural area and there is plenty of room for ground improvements in the future.

Car parking is easy on Glebe Way or on the main club car park and admission of only £3 and a 24-page programme packed with up-to-date statistics of the Welsh football scene was good value for £1. There is a club house at the entrance that houses the dressing rooms, a committee room and tea bar which offered hot and cold drinks, hot pies and hot dogs and chocolate at very reasonable prices.

As for the ground itself, which is surrounded by a neat white post and rail fence, there is a small cover incorporating a seated area down one side. The rest of the ground is open standing. The pitch was in superb condition; flat, well grassed and with a zip on the surface that aided good passing football.

Disappointingly team news is hard to check and the 'tannoy' system, which was used to convey the odd message, failed to announce the team line-ups.

Despite long hold-ups on the M56 motorway, it was a thoroughly pleasant visit to Buckley. The club will have to wait a little longer before being crowned champions of the league for a second year in succession. The game was played in a largely good spirit and was well contested but there was no doubt that the better team won on this occasion.