

TT No.248: Mick Burt - SATURDAY 13 MAY 2006; MID WALES LEAGUE - KO 1pm; **FOUR CROSSES** (2) 3 U.W.A. (0) 3; Att: 58; 20-page programme £2 including admission; Entertainment Value: 5.

I am probably one of the more cautious amongst us when it comes to travelling to end of season games particularly on the day of the F.A. Cup Final when closeted fans of the competing clubs don't really want to pull on the boots themselves. I need not have worried this time as our sojourn just across the Welsh border provided us with a simply tremendous match. Not only was the football entertaining end to end stuff, but the game was played without mouth or malice and was a joy to watch. Fittingly, the students came back from 3-0 down to earn a deserved point, two of their goals coming into the "goal of the season" category.

Arriving at the Foxen Manor ground around an hour and a half before the 1pm kick-off, we soon clocked that this is a club on the up. Promoted from the Montgomeryshire Amateur League at the end of last season having won the league & cup double, Four Crosses have certainly got splendid off-field facilities to go with their excellent playing surface which is fully railed-off. A lengthy chat with the manager whetted the appetite for the match; "both of these teams like to play football" was his quote and how right he was!

A couple of showery outbreaks persuaded me to sit in the shelter on the side nearest the dressing room/refreshment complex that provides the only covered accommodation on the ground - a continuous bench seat that can hold around fifteen people being covered by a triangular roof, but it is planned to erect some more orthodox covered accommodation in the not too distant future. The venue is a strange mix of town and country with open fields bordering the far side of the ground and a new housing estate at the end nearest the entrance.

The match programme sold for £2 including admission, a smart coloured glossy cover enveloping 16 pages which was a really good effort with all the relevant details included. Yet another super day out.