

**31/08/05 TT No.30: Barry Neighbour - Welsh Ground Hop 2005 Review**

**WELSH GROUNDHOP**

Friday 26th August 2005; **PONTYPRIDD TOWN** 4 Gwynfi United 0 - Attendance: 202; Macron Welsh League Division 2; 40-page programme of which 25 were adverts!

Pontypridd's ground is situated through a park and surrounded by a by-pass which is a bit different. They easily beat Gwynfi who were relegated last season and the 4-goal margin flattered the visitors as it really should have been double the score-line. FGIF Rating 3\*.

Saturday 27th August 2005; **RHYDYFELIN** 2 Osbourne Athletic 1 - Attendance: 183; South Wales Amateur League Division 2; Programme: 16 Pages Priced £1 (with Admission)

We took the official coach for the day arriving at our first game nearly 2 hours before kick-off! We did get to see them put the nets up. The ground is reached via a rugby pitch and then up a fairly steep slope which could be lethal in bad weather. The game was quite lively with both sides creating openings and a draw was probably the correct result. FGIF Rating 3\*.

**CARNETOWN** 2 Abercynon Athletic 2 - Attendance: 269; South Wales Amateur League Division 2; Programme: 20 Pages Price £1

We arrived just in time for a quick half pint in the Carne Park Hotel which sponsors Carnetown. The game was a local derby and was a highly charged affair with both sides giving their all. The highlight however was unconnected to the football but involved a Poodle and a Jack Russell who, having entered the field of play, just carried on doing what dogs do naturally (or unnaturally considering they were both males!). And all this despite the ref showing his red card at them!! FGIF Rating 3\*.

**FC ABERCWMBOI** 4 HIRWAUN WELFARE 4 - Attendance: 189; South Wales Amateur League Division 2; Programme: 32 Pages Price: £1

This was an absolute cracking game played at a fast pace throughout. The star player being the home side's No 9 Chris Pedrick who fired home a well taken hat-trick but Hirwaun hit back to earn a share of the spoils. FGIF Rating 5\*.

**CWMAMAN INSTITUTE** 4 v Cardiff Draconians 5; 5\* Att:292; South Wales Amateur League Division 1 Programme: 20 Pages Price: £1

We did not think things could get any better than FC Abercwmboi but we were wrong as this game surpassed it. Draconians looked to be holding a comfortable lead but the home side hit back but Cardiff held on for the points. FGIF Rating 5\*.

We all went home happy having seen 28 Goals in the five games held over the two days.

The last two games will certainly be high in the early season 'Anoraks List' although I think you will get a few 'hoppers staking their claim to the games!!

03/20