

30/10/05 TT No.90: Andy Sneddon - Four Crosses (Spar Mid Wales League)

A quick resume of yesterday - well worth sticking the programme in the prog section as many Welsh 'aficionados' are running out of "issuers" to visit.

October 29th 2005, Spar Mid Wales League, Four Crosses 1 Waterloo Rovers 6, Attendance: 70, Programme with Admission £2, 20pp, regular issue.

There haven't been too many new clubs coming into the Mid Wales League in recent years so when it transpired that newcomers Four Crosses were now issuing it was full steam ahead as the first available opportunity to sample a new venue. We arrived nice and early to find the progs had just arrived (done by player coach Steve Jones), so with copies safely tucked into furry hooded anorak it was time...to tick off a new venue in the GBG. If you are in the area allow an extra hour or so and visit the Royal Hill at Edgerley, around 6 miles to the East of Four Crosses. All I'd say is this: if there's 4 or more of you, don't all go in the bar at once, you won't fit. The setting is tranquil (on the banks of the Severn), the welcome friendly and the beer sublime (Salopian Brewery). Go and find out for yourself.

Back to the footie. We got back to ground just on KO time to find the progs being sold with some gusto by one of the good ladies of Four Crosses. No-one gets away with jibbing in here, you WILL buy a programme. The ground, by Mid Wales standards, is quite impressive, although nowhere near as rural as many of the venues. It is set amongst a new housing estate although there are good views of the nearby hills to be had from the dugout side of the ground. (I'd better explain that this is the Four Crosses on the A483 between Oswestry and Welshpool (there's another one West of Welshpool).). You enter at the end of the ground, and turn into a large carpark, the pitch running lengthways away from you. It is neatly railed off, with dugouts on one side and a small cover for 20-30 people overlooking the halfway line on the other. There are plans to extend this. The dressing rooms are in a very impressive modern building set 10 yards back behind this. There are kitchen facilities in the changing rooms but there didn't appear to be any signs of any refreshments on sale. The overall appearance of the ground is very neat and tidy.

The game itself was a strange affair. Four Crosses, promoted as Montgomeryshire League Champions last season, looked comfortable, but Waterloo (bottom of the table with just one point from 10 games) always looked dangerous on the break. The visitors took an early lead, levelled soon after with a peach of a strike curled into the top corner from 25 yards, only for Waterloo to go back into the lead early in the 2nd half. It then just seemed a matter of time before Four Crosses equalised, however, they got caught on the break 4 times in the last 10 minutes and Waterloo went away with a very unlikely (but deserved) 1st win of the season, the two young, nippy forwards bagging a hat trick apiece. 6-1 was ludicrously harsh

on the home side, but you had to say Waterloo deserved the win. How they are bottom of the table though is beyond me.

To find the ground, coming from the North on the A483, turn left in the village of Four Crosses at the sign marked Llandrinio 2. Shortly on your left you will see a sign for the Sports Field. Follow this road as it swings gently right, past the small business park and into a new housing development. Keep going straight on (including over a mini r/bout) and the ground entrance is at the end of this road as you reach the edge of the housing.

Game rating 3*.

(Whilst there I also noticed a Wem Town programme from this season, they now play in the Shropshire County League, sharing their ground with Shawbury United).

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