

**TT No.273: Paul Roach** - Monday 11th June 2007; Henllan v Rhewl; Llandyrnog & District Village Clubs Summer League; Result: 3-1; Admission: None taken; Programme: 16 pages, 50p.

Living little more than half an hour from the most distant venues in this league I made a regular trip to Henllan on 11th June. The ground, Top Park, is close to the village centre, sitting on the junction of the Trefnant and Llanefydd roads and opposite the village church. The pitch is on a raised plateau offering good views of the surrounding hills and countryside. It is cut into the hill at the far end, a factor which limits the size of the pitch, for it is on the small side. However, it is an enclosed venue. There is no cover and the pitch is not roped off, as is the case for the majority of games in this league (the exceptions being Rhwel/Llangynhafl games and the shield semi's & final).

The games started in bright warm sunshine but ended in a torrential storm, a fact which would have a significant bearing on the outcome. Henllan were on a terrible run on nine straight losses and had dropped to the foot of the table for the first time during the previous week. It was not to be tenth time unlucky. Rhewl took a first half lead when a rebound was despatched with some power into the roof of the net. Rhewl dominated the half and came very close when a powerful swerving free kick rebounded off the post. Henllan had a seemingly good goal disallowed for a perceived foul. The referee then did himself no favours by saying he was playing to the old offside rule, following repeated flagging by the Rhewl flag man!

The second half was far more even. The fact that Henllan won the game could in no doubt be credited to the generosity of the Rhewl keeper. The equaliser came when a long-range effort was hit directly at the keeper. He raised his hands to save it, only for the wet ball to skid past him into the net. Henllan's second was virtually a carbon copy, although to be fair this long-range shot was nearer the corner and much harder to save. Rhewl strove for an equaliser, hitting the post again but it was in vain. The winner came in the dying minutes. Henllan keeper Chris Brown fired a free kick in from just inside the half way line. The Rhewl keeper could not hold it resulting in a simple tap in for the Henllan goal poacher!

No admission was taken but a 16-page prog was brought round, selling for 50p. A raffle was also taken.

Henllan remain the only issuer in this league to my knowledge.