

TT No.43: *Barry Neighbour* - Bridgend Town (Welsh League Division 3); **Clevedon Town** (Southern League Prem Division) and **Cwmbran Town** (Welsh Premier League).

Wedding Anniversaries are a great excuse to go away for the weekend and get in three new grounds in as I did last week.

Friday 6th October 2006; **Bridgend Town** 1 Maesteg Park 3; Welsh League Division 1; 3*; Basic 12-page programme with admission.

Being a former Southern League side, I expected more of Bridgend's Coychurch Road Ground. It has an old stone wall enclosing the ground and a prefabricated building which housed the dressing rooms and a small clubhouse. On the far side was a metal cover to provide a bit of shelter but this was spoiled by unsightly graffiti which gave the ground a poor appearance. Plans are afoot for Bridgend to move, possibly next season, so it is worth planning a visit this season if you want to see a game here. As for the match itself, the visitors were on top from the outset and raced into a 3-0 lead after just 20 minutes. Bridgend pulled one back in the second half but Maesteg Park held on for a comfortable victory.

Saturday 7th October 2006; **Clevedon Town** 2 Wealdstone 2; Southern League Prem Division; 5*; 32-page programme £1.50.

Clevedon have a purpose-built stadium which is about a mile outside of town. It has a large stand down one side and covered terracing down the other. It was very clean and tidy having undergone a major overhaul in the past eighteen months. As for the game, it was a real cracker with both sides making a mockery of their low league positions of twentieth and twenty-first. Wealdstone looked the stronger side early on and took a deserved lead in the 18th minute when a through ball sent their forward through and he made no mistake with a deft chip over the oncoming 'keeper. A minute before the break the London side doubled their advantage with a low shot that took a wicked deflection to wrong-foot the Clevedon keeper. The home side were not playing particularly badly but Wealdstone continued to dominate creating a hatful of chances that were not converted. They were made to pay dearly for this with ten minutes left when Clevedon pulled a goal back after a strong run ended with a low shot under the visiting 'keeper. As the crowd started to get behind them, Clevedon pushed for the equalizer. It came with just seven minutes left on the clock when Wealdstone failed to prevent a cross being delivered from the right and the Clevedon forward had the simple job of side-footing home. Both sides still created chances but had to settle for a point a piece.

Sunday 8th October 2006 **Cwmbran Town** 2 Airbus UK 2 Welsh Premier League 3* 28 Page Programme sold for £1.

Cwmbran play at the Cwmbran Stadium and like all athletic stadia tends to lack atmosphere when a small crowd is spread out in a large stand. The bar was open

and refreshments were available as were souvenirs. Cwmbran seemed to be cruising as they went 2-0 up against their struggling opponents but then took the foot of the gas and allowed Airbus to come back into the game and snatch a point. All in all, an excellent weekend visiting three new grounds. By the way the wife enjoyed them too!

06/20