

TT0607-90

**TT No.90: Mike Latham** - Sat 9 Dec 2006: Cymru Alliance. **Lex XI** 2-5 Glantraeth. Attendance: 20; Admission: £3 (including programme); FGIF Match Rating: 3\*.

With several games in the Cymru Alliance falling foul to the wet weather (all updated on Saturday morning on the excellent league website) it was with some relief that a check call to the extremely pleasant home club secretary confirmed that this game was definitely on.

Lex XI play at Stansty Park, the former training ground of Wrexham FC whose Racecourse Ground floodlights are easily spotted in the distance. Formed as a recreational side by a group of Wrexham lawyers in the mid-1960s (Lex is the Latin name for law) they joined the Cymru Alliance as inaugural members in 1990 after progressing through local leagues.

The ground is easy to find, located just off the Mold Road roundabout off the A483 from the M53 motorway. Instead of heading into Wrexham or taking the Mold Road, take the B road signposted Summerhill and the Stansty Park carpark is just 200 yards or so on the right-hand side.

As grounds go this is pretty Spartan, with just a small changing block and social room with a few covered seats in front located behind the nearside goal. Despite being only a few hundred yards from the retail park on the other side of the A483 the ground enjoys a pleasant rural location with some mature trees adding to the ambience.

The car park is spacious and the gate lady cheerfully taking your £3, which also includes a rather basic programme. The rest of the ground is open standing behind a post and rail fence. One highlight is 'Vicki's Kitchen', a well-stocked snack bar that cheerfully dispenses hot dogs and burgers, confectionary and hot drinks in pot mugs- very welcome on such a bitterly cold day.

The pitch, though heavy and with very muddy goalmouths was perfectly playable despite a week of heavy rain and Glantraeth, last season's league and cup winners, took their time finding their feet. But two goals just before half-time and another two soon afterwards left the home side looking like they would be on the wrong end of a real hammering. To their credit Lex rallied and pulled back a couple of goals- due reward for their efforts in a hard fought though sporting contest that was well refereed.

Though Wrexham were away from home the attendance was a small one- apart from a few club stalwarts and family members there didn't seem to be any visiting fans or other travellers. But everyone was friendly and the game, which kicked-off at 2pm as there are no floodlights at the ground was played for the most part in watery winter sunshine.

Standards of grounds and teams in the Cymru Alliance, I have found, are extremely variable with a handful of clubs aspiring to rise to the Welsh Premier League and

others seemingly having gone as far as they can in the Welsh pyramid. Lex XI probably falls in the latter category but they are a small and friendly club with a warm welcome to a stranger and a visit here is a rewarding one.

06/20