

TT No.94: Mike Latham - Saturday 20 October 2007: Pentraeth Honda Welsh Football Alliance. **Rhydymwyn** 2-4 Amlwch Town. Attendance: 30 (h/c); Admission: £2; No programme; FGIF Match Rating: 3*.

It's another beautifully sunny and warm autumnal Saturday afternoon and the traffic on the A55 towards North Wales and Anglesey is heavy with holiday makers setting off for half-term. For the discerning there is a wide choice of football games in this part of the world and after careful consideration the destination of Rhydymwyn is chosen.

Rhydymwyn is a small village on the A541 Denbigh road out of Mold. It's a delightful place, set amidst rolling hills and with lots of old stone buildings, intricately trimmed hedges and mature trees. In the bright sunshine the village looks a picture and the local football ground, located just off the main road along Vicarage Road doesn't disappoint.

It's typical of many Welsh football grounds at this level, with a post and rail fence around a well-kept playing area, a small seated stand on the half-way line, two dug-outs and a changing room block that also doubles up as a tea bar.

A friendly local takes my £2 admission and the car park, behind the near goal, has plenty of room. Sadly, there are no programmes- "No one to do them, see," he explains, adding that the committee are all over the age of 50 and he is concerned at the lack of young blood coming through- a problem commonplace throughout the land.

The ground does have floodlights and, indeed have a scheduled Friday evening game for the next international weekend in mid-November but there's no need of them this afternoon. The visitors arrive on a coach after their long journey from the tip of Anglesey with half-an-hour or so to go before kick-off and begin an impressive warm-up routine. They look like they mean business, although worryingly they are wearing blue socks and shorts, just like the home players. While the home team also have all-blue shirts, we just about get away with a potential colour clash as the visitors' shirts are predominantly white.

Meanwhile the tea bar has opened for business and hot drinks and hot dogs are cheerfully dispensed. This is a friendly place and everyone has a word for a stranger before kick-off approaches.

The referee seems well-known to the players and he controls the game expertly. It's a fast flowing, open game played in a good spirit and the goals are soon flying in. The visitors, 3-1 up at half-time, add a fourth to seal an impressive victory but the home side salvage some pride with a determined late rally.

Immaculately kept and with not a piece of litter or graffiti to be seen, the Vicarage Road ground is simply idyllic and its location quite memorable. Just a pity that the village is so small and struggles to maintain a football team at this level of

the Welsh pyramid. A few have made the journey from Amlwch but the total number of people lining the pitch is only around the 30-mark and with no raffle, programme sales or bar income to augment the finances it must be a struggle making ends meet.

The Welsh Alliance League has an excellent website with results and fixture information regularly updated as well as directions to grounds. It's just a shame that Rhydymwyn do not issue programmes, no matter how modest the effort, as this will deter many travellers from making a visit to this lovely part of the world.

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