

**TT No.214: *Mike Latham*** - Sat 7 April 2012; **Llanidloes Town** 1-1 Carno; Spar Mid Wales League; Attendance: 152 (h/c); Admission: £3; No programme; FGIF Match Rating: 3\*.

I rather fancied a double on Easter Saturday with The New Saints' game against Llanelli scheduled for 5-15pm kick-off for the benefit of the excellent Sgorio programme. Beforehand I plumped for a visit to Llanidloes and their top-four clash in the Mid Wales League against local rivals Carno.

Llanidloes is a small town in mid Wales not far from Newtown, close to the large dam and reservoir Llyn Clywedog. A popular destination for hikers and set amongst stunning scenery, Llanidloes is also close to the Hafren Forest which is also used for car rallies such as Rally GB and motorcycle Enduro events throughout the year.

The ancient village centre still retains much of its original design, the stand-out feature being the half-timbered Old Market Hall which stands at the crossroads of the four streets of the original medieval town and there are many small family owned shops and businesses; once Llanidloes was a centre for the mining of lead and silver and also had a thriving flannel industry. There was once a railway station here but the line was closed in the early 1960s. Pre-match I lunched in the town's vegetarian wholefood café, which made a change from the diet of Bovril and Scotch pies I've enjoyed lately on visits to Scottish Junior grounds.

Llanidloes was also the venue for the first recorded football match to take place in Mid Wales during December 1870. The Llanidloes club was formed in 1875, a landmark proudly displayed on the painted roof of the club's main stand. The club has enjoyed several periods of success, reaching the Welsh Cup semi-finals in 1881 and enjoying a string of successes in the Montgomeryshire and District League and later the Mid Wales League before the Second World War. Later, Llanidloes Town were founder members of the League of Wales in 1992, but were relegated at the end of their first season and have not returned since. 'The Daffs' as they are known have also enjoyed many cup successes over the years.

Llanidloes' ground is at Victoria Road on the outskirts of town; a venue that is splendidly appointed with two seated stands, floodlights, a canteen and social club. The ground is a popular venue for cup finals due to its facilities, floodlighting and location.

On a cool and cloudy afternoon third-placed Llanidloes took on fourth-placed Carno in a local derby that attracted a decent crowd, most spectators gathering on the entrance side in the main stand or on the tree-shrouded banking alongside. The game was evenly fought with goalmouth chances at a premium and at half-time I thought this was a nailed-on 0-0 draw.

Just to show how much I know the home side took the lead soon after the resumption when a left-wing cross was turned into his own net by the veteran

Carno defender. But within two minutes the visitors were level, their impressive no7 driving home a low shot through a crowded penalty area. That's how the game stayed and there were few chances to break the deadlock afterwards. The shrill blast of the referee's final whistle had me scurrying away and an hour or so later I was at Park Hall watching Welsh Premier League action to complete another rewarding trip to Mid Wales.

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