

TT No.40: *Mike Latham* - Sat 29 November 2014: Welsh National League (Wrexham Area) Division One; **CPD Caerwys** 1-4 AFC Brynford; Attendance: 30 (h/c); Admission: raffle ticket; No programme; FGIF Match rating: 4*.

I felt a little bit sad as I journeyed along the busy A55 towards North Wales. I've really enjoyed visiting the Wrexham Area League these last few years. It all started with the delightful ground at Gresford and suddenly it began to dawn on me what a fantastic source of groundhopping opportunities were afforded by this football-mad area.

And here I was a few years later, making the journey to Caerwys to complete the league in its entirety. Champagne time, or in my case a cup of delicious home-made tomato and basil soup and a slice of freshly baked bread from the tea bar at this lovely ground.

So, unless there are new entrants, ground changes or I fancy a re-visit then that's this league done for me. I've really enjoyed visiting the varied number of grounds and seen plenty entertaining games, often in friendly company. Some clubs have changed grounds in the past few years like Penyffordd and Brickfield, others, like Brynteg Village, Venture and the remotely located Glyn Ceiriog have sadly folded.

It's a league of contrasts with some urban settings, some grounds little more than a roped-off school field but also some delightful locations such as Llanuwchllyn, Corwen and Chirk. The jewel in the crown, though, has to be Acrefair, nestling in the shadow of the imposing Pontcysyllte Aqueduct- simply stunning.

So on to Caerwys, a small town in Flintshire, a couple of miles inland from the A55 at the Prestatyn junction. What a beautiful place it is, and with a long history- apparently it was mentioned in the Domesday Book. I parked next to the distinctive church and took a look inside, a beautiful and tranquil place. The view inland to mountains and valleys glistening in the late autumn sun is memorable and several groups of ramblers were ending their walks and taking a look around the centre of Caerwys as I arrived.

CPD Caerwys entered the Wrexham Area League this year from the Clywd League, alongside their visitors this afternoon. The ground adjoins the local primary school and has a superb clubhouse behind the far goal and a neat roped-off pitch with several areas of hard standing situated within an upmarket housing estate.

I'd seen Brynford earlier in the season and knew they were a decent side. They brought with them a good, few, spectators and the action was fast and furious, well controlled by the proactive referee. Despite falling behind the visitors won this one fairly comfortably in the end though the home side missed a penalty at a crucial stage of the game and there were two red cards, from separate incidents in the first half.

I loved my visit here- a lovely ground with some great views and a great tea bar.
It's as good a place as any at which to celebrate that champagne moment.

04/20