

TT1718-1

TT No. 1: Steve Hardy - Friday July 14th 2017; **Llanrug United** v Bontnewydd; Pre-Season Friendly; 6.45pm start; Result: 2-2; Admission: Free; Programme/Team sheet: No; Attendance 55.

This was a keenly contested local derby, with Welsh Alliance first division side Llanrug United, and Gwynedd league Bontnewydd being just 4 miles apart. Both sides had plenty of vocal support in the very healthy crowd of 55, and with the home side being two divisions higher than their neighbours, I was expecting a comfortable home win.

The first half was bossed by Llanrug, who could only score once to lead 1-0 at the break. More of the same after half time, as Llanrug doubled their lead, but following mass substitutions by both sides Bontnewydd suddenly scored twice in three minutes to level thing up. After that it was end to end stuff, with the two teams eventually settling for a draw at the final whistle.

Llanrug's Eithin Duon ground has an eclectic mix of spectator facilities, with two small unusable stands each the size of a large dug out behind one goal, and a tea bar along one side of the ground which has a very welcome overhang in front of it to protect us from the torrential rain. The people running the club were really friendly, and spotting my accent wasn't from North Wales dragged out their only committee member who spoke English to talk to me.

The scenery around Llanrug was stunning, with mist covered hills everywhere you looked, and the match proved a perfect start to my 2017-18 campaign.

04/20