

**TT No.59:** *Steve Hardy* - Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017; **Bellevue** v Halkyn United; North East Wales League; Result: 1-22; Admission: Free; Programme: No; Attendance: 7 h/c

OK, it's a fair cop. I did target this game as I thought there would be plenty of goals. I didn't think there would be this many though!

The North-East Wales League is comparatively new, having only been born in 2011 as the Clwyd league East. It consists of just 16 clubs of varying standards, with the winners being entitled to be promoted to the Wrexham Area League.

My match today saw a visit to Wrexham, and particularly to Bellevue Park. This is a fairly extensive public park, which has a dressing room complex and one full sized pitch on its right-hand edge. My match today saw newly formed Bellevue entertaining former Welsh Alliance side Halkyn United who are trying to climb the Welsh pyramid again after folding their first team in 2016.

Bellevue are a very interesting club. Formed specifically to help refugees, immigrants and minority players get to play football, make friends and generally integrate in to Wrexham life, this first season has been a bit of a struggle. Before today's match they sat rock bottom of the league with 15 straight defeats, most of them being by double figures too.

To be fair though, they turned up with a full team plus subs, and played this match with a smile on their faces, despite the terrible thrashing they suffered. In brief, Halkyn scored at will really. Leading 10-1 at half time they got a bit confused near the end and were urging their players to 'make it 20' when, by my reckoning, they were already winning 21-1. There was no rubbing the Bellevue players faces in it though, or showboating either, which was good to see too.

Halkyn are now up to second in the league, and looked a good team to me. They will face more difficult opponents than Bellevue this season, for sure, but I do hope Bellevue keep going as their ethos is to be applauded.