

TT No. 103: Keith Aslan - Saturday 16th February 2019; **SWANSEA UNIVERSITY** v Garden Village; Welsh League Division 2; Kick Off: 14.07! Result: 4-0; Admission & Programme: £3 for matures; Attendance: 48 (42 home, 4 away & 2 neutral).

I took advantage of the early kick-off's (too early for the referee) to complete the Welsh League while it is still there. To all intents and purposes the Welsh League will cease to exist next season in line with the FA of Wales two-year reorganization masterplan. A diagram of this brave new world is on their website which Alan Turin would understand but I didn't. Basically, you will be higher up the pecking order if you have a 200-seat stand. No problems for Swansea University with a large raised stand straddling the half-way line with an excellent view of proceedings notwithstanding the running track. This is a 'sports village' with 3 plastic hockey pitches and a leisure centre with an Olympic-size swimming pool that today was hosting a gala, and judging by the crowds it's pretty big potato's round these parts.

Easy to get to with plenty of buses to the ground from outside the *gorsaf*, which for the less linguistically dexterous than myself is Welsh for station. Get off at Singleton hospital, the stop after the University, and it's a three-minute walk. As a money saving tip the cheaper option would probably be to hire a chauffeur driven limousine. Hot drinks available at half time, 3 of the 4 vending machines in the leisure centre were out of order, with cold drinks being the only option, although you must be pretty desperate to pay £1.20 for a small bottle of water.

While the homesters were always the better team, Garden Village helped them out in the second half. When the third went in Villages' No. 4 didn't think it should have been allowed, looked o.k. to me, and forcibly expressed his views to the referee. Booked for dissent. Undeterred he carried on whingeing and got himself sent off. Ten minutes later the number 10, having just seen what happened to his team-mate, also had a go at the referee about something, again no idea what, and surprise, surprise off he went as well. Footballers eh? They don't have the pre-match '*Respect*' handshakes in Wales which must have been the cause of all the trouble. Ha! Ha! Ironically Garden Village played some of their best stuff when down to 9 men. The referee controlled the game well, the hard part I would have thought, but his timekeeping was a disgrace. A seven-minute late start; two minutes added on to the first half when there were no stoppages whatsoever; 17 minutes for half time and I've no idea how long he dragged the second half out for, as I wasn't there at the final whistle. Fellow hopper, Fred Flood from Fulham, is a professional so he stayed until the end, catching a later train. As far as I was concerned, missing a few minutes football in exchange for getting home an hour earlier was a good deal. The referee was Ben Williams and if you see him officiating at a game you go to be prepared for a very long afternoon.

Regular readers will now be looking forward to my weekly rant about the state of the railways. Sorry to disappoint you but today the train service was excellent. Fast, punctual, not overcrowded, with all connections comfortably made, today's

journey was a pleasure. This is how it should be most of the time. The xx-billions (insert your own figure here, currently 80 but rising every week) being wasted on HS2 should be spent on improving the network we already have rather than knocking 20 minutes off the journey time from London to Birmingham.

04/20