

TT No. 160: *Brian Buck* - Monday 17th June 2019; **Gibraltar v Isle of Man**; Huws Gray Inter Island Games Ynys Môn Women's Group C; Venue: played at **Llanerchymedd FC**; Result: 1-2; Attendance: 70 approx.

I don't know how my wife does it. She always seems to book our holidays in places where there's football to watch not far away. So it was that we found ourselves joining in the biannual Island Games, the body of which takes place in Gibraltar this year. But as they hadn't got enough football grounds there Ynys Môn (aka Anglesey) stepped in, with the intention of trying to prove that they can stage the whole games in 2025. The tournament actually started on the previous day, but Sunday's are generally Church days for me, so I dipped out.

I had timed my walk from where we were staying to get to this ground. It would have taken 32 minutes, but this was not my first-choice match for tonight, because when I arrived at Bodedern I discovered that they had kicked off two hours earlier than the time I had listed. This was no real problem as I got back to Llanerchymedd with plenty of time to spare. Bearing in mind that this was a very hilly area the playing surface was very flat. It also had a nice stand on one side with some bench seating in it. Furthermore, there was an additional pitch behind this stand, separated by a rather dilapidated caravan.

Gibraltar started well, opening the scoring on three minutes, but IOM soon grew into the match and they equalised on 17 minutes. They then assumed control for the remainder of the half. For some strange reason Gibraltar picked up a lot of injuries after the break. Initially it seemed just bad luck, but as the game progressed there were too many to continue to support this theory. They seemed to be hold out for a draw. But they didn't get it because on 83 minutes IOM won it with a 35-yard direct free kick, which the keeper, perhaps blinded by the low sun, could only push into her own net. Then at the end I attempted to return my cup to the tea bar, but I was verbally restrained as the door was opposite the players dressing rooms. So, I gave my cup to the official concerned and said "Thank you" and "Goodnight" to him and walked off!