

TT No.88: *Keith Aslan* - Saturday 12th January 2019; **TREHARRIS WESTERN ATHLETIC** v Trefelin Boys & Girls Club; Welsh League Division 3; Kick-Off: 14.02; Result: 0-1; Admission: £3; Programme: £1; Attendance: 89 (82 home, 6 away & 1 neutral).

Quakers Yard is the station for this one, a few stops down the line from Merthyr Tydfil and having visited this awful place a few weeks ago how my spirits rose knowing I wasn't having to go back to the 'Mad Max Heritage Site'. The ground is a half hour walk from the station, no buses. It is superbly situated in the middle of the local Parc Taff Bargoed regeneration scheme with the former colliery site being turned into a fabulous country park, well worth a wander round. They've made a very good job of this. Having said all that, the ground itself is pretty standard. *Atcost* architecture of course, floodlights which I don't believe are in use yet, and surrounded by a fence that you can watch the game through for free. No cheapskates at today's match. The changing rooms are a long way from the pitch with the tea room doubling as a tourist information centre for the park with photographs of the old coal mine adorning the walls. Still a work in progress a canteen with hot meals will be coming on line in the summer, too late for me, I had to suffer malnutrition having failed to find a *Greggs* locally.

Three times in the programme opposing forward Lee Trundle was described as a 'Swansea Legend'. Surprisingly therefore that out of a 24-year playing career he only spent 4 seasons with the Swans. He has played for 17 (seventeen) clubs which makes him the playing equivalent of a groundhopper in my eyes. In his 45 games for Llanelli he scored 68 goals which is going it a bit. Today he is greyer, porkier and slower than his days as a 'Swansea Legend' and I'd be very interested to know how much he's getting paid.

Treharris Football Club is steeped in history. Formed by miners in 1889 they were one of the original members of the Welsh League and have had unbroken membership since its formation in 1902 although they've never managed to win it. By comparison Trefelin are new kids on the block, coming into being in 1984. Currently walking away with the league there is obviously someone at the club with a bit of spare cash.

I felt a bit sorry for Treharris who I would like to have seen get a point from the game, an ambition that was scuppered 15 minutes from time with a Lee Trundle assisted goal. The home side had Leighton James playing for them but I doubt it's the same one. No '*Respect*' handshakes here, the Welsh think they are a waste of time. Believe me, so do the English. Down to 10 a side by the end, the Trefelin player was sent off with a second yellow for kicking the ball away. I doubt he'll be applying for membership of Mensa any time soon. The referee, who had an excellent game, looked about the same age as me, although obviously more mobile. Much kudos to him when the home side inexplicably decide to traipse the

long distance back to the changing room at the break, he followed them and got them back out and playing for a 13-minute half time.

The trains all did what they were supposed to do, I spent my afternoon watching a tubby 42-year old 'Swansea Legend', and I got a programme. Perfick.

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