

TT No.113: 08/05/05 Club/Ground Focus: *Mike Latham* - Holywell Town (Cymru Alliance)

Sat 7 May 2005, Cymru Alliance, Holywell Town 0-4 Glantraeth (att-60).

Holywell Town's Halkyn Road ground is one of the most picturesque in the Cymru Alliance and looked a picture for the final game of the season. Situated on the road that winds down to Holywell from the A55 it affords splendid views of the Dee Estuary beyond.

At the main entrance a friendly gateman dispenses an admission ticket for £3 and a programme for £1 and there is plenty of car-parking once inside. The ground is effectively one-sided with three structures all along one touchline housing seats and a covered terrace as well as the dressing rooms. There is also a small tea hut that serves drinks from pot mugs and hot dogs. The main feature of the stand is the ornate white ironwork that gives the club name.

The rest of the ground is standing though the far two sides are virtually given over to nature, with a steep wooded valley that eventually slopes down to the river beyond the far side. The pitch has a slight slope, far less than it had until a levelling process took place some years ago. The pitch was in good condition for the time of year and was well grassed.

The visitors Glantraeth clinched second place in the table with their win, the game changing on a contentious decision by the referee to send off a home defender on 25 minutes and award a penalty for a foul. With the banished player making his way from the field the referee overturned the penalty decision and instead awarded a free-kick outside the area after consultation with his assistant.

But Glantraeth scored direct from the free-kick and went on to score again before half-time, adding two further goals in a scrappy second half. Halkyn Road is a pleasant venue and has staged Welsh Premier League games in the past, though would need considerable work to do so again in the future. The 28-page programme added to the enjoyment of the afternoon that began in bright sunshine and ended with a ferocious shower of hail and strong winds.