

TT No.017: 29/01/05 Club/Ground Focus: *Mike Latham* - Caersws (Welsh Premier League)

Caersws is a small village six miles west of Newtown in mid Wales with a remarkably successful football team. They went into Saturday's game with leaders TNS in second place in the Welsh Premier League and settled for a 0-0 draw after a tight game of few chances. What chances there were went largely the way of the visitors who were aggrieved to have a last-minute goal ruled out for offside. The Recreation Ground is approached via a small tunnel under the railway line and it is a wise move for drivers to tuck in their wing mirrors on their cars before negotiating the challenge. Once through, a large piece of flat land opens out with plenty of car parking and an adjoining field to the main playing area.

There is a small modern main stand, with the sign Caersws FC clearly visible, a small covered standing area and an excellent tea hut that did a roaring trade from the 740 crowd of spectators. The rest of the ground is uncovered standing with a television gantry dominating the skyline opposite the main stand. With rolling green hills surrounding the ground and sheep grazing peacefully in nearby fields Caersws is an idyllic place to watch football, a world far removed from the English Premiership.

The whole village, young and old, appeared to have turned out to watch their side and it was wonderful to have tea and coffee served up in pot mugs from friendly catering staff instead of the plastic cup variety so often on offer. The standard of play was good- both sides tried hard to play proper football on a well grassed pitch and the game was worthy of far higher than the £5 admission price on a mild and still afternoon.