

**TT No.039: 02/03/05 Ground/Club Focus: *Mike Latham* - Connah's Quay Nomads (Welsh Premier League)**

Tuesday 1 March 2005, Connah's Quay Nomads 0-3 Newtown (att: 105)

Connah's Quay Nomads play at the Deeside Stadium, Kelsterton, Flintshire- a modern athletics stadium attached to Deeside College.

The Nomads moved there from their old ground, that was situated behind the nearby Halfway House pub in 1998 and the contrast from their old, homely and idiosyncratic venue could hardly be more marked.

The large college car park provides plenty of free parking and admission was £5 adults with an excellent 40-page programme a bargain £1. This contained a number of excellent colour photographs and pen pictures of both home and visiting clubs with brief and informative histories of the Nomads and Newtown.

There was also a double page centre spread with excellent statistics on Nomads' season to date. A terrific effort and clearly a labour of love by its compiler.

The main feature of the stadium is the elevated main stand with six neat rows of seats- 420 in all. The seated area gives an excellent view over the pitch and the dressing rooms and a small snack bar are housed underneath. The dugouts are placed in front of the stand, separated by an eight-lane running track and the netting for the field events is located behind the goal to the right. The quality of the floodlights was excellent.

There is also a small shelter for fans who prefer to stand to the left of the main grandstand. On the far side is a small building that houses the television gantry with a room underneath. The rest of the ground is standing, though especially behind the goals this is a long way from the action due to the running track.

Newtown were 2-0 up inside the opening half-hour and settled the issue with veteran striker Michael Brown's second goal- a screaming 25-yard shot- after 65 minutes. There was a crowd of 105 on a cold but clear night and the nature of the stadium means there is precious little atmosphere. The shouts of the players could be clearly heard. One noteworthy point was the efficiency of the ball-boys who provided a superb service all night long.