



**02/02/08**

**MacWhirter Welsh League Division 1**

**14.00**

**Cwmbrân Stadium**

**CWMBRÂN TOWN**

**2**

Hodge (15), Lane (62)

**GOYTRE UNITED**

**3**

Thomas (13, 84), Lyons (21)

A much-improved Cwmbrân Town pushed the league leaders all the way in this tight affair, and were very unfortunate not to have taken what would have been a much-deserved point from the game.

The match got off to a fairly frantic start with both sides scoring fortuitous goals within the first quarter of an hour. The Crows could have taken the lead on ten minutes when Richard Lane latched onto a ball through, but he was unable to put enough height on his lob as visiting keeper Curtis rushed out.

What happened next was a shock to everyone, as Daniel Thomas collected out a long ball on the right. He then looked to centre the ball; however, his cross became a superb shot and flew into the top corner of the net via the fingertips of the despairing fully stretched Jeffries. Only Thomas will know if he meant that or not!

Five minutes later, the Crows finally broke their six-game goal drought, as a free kick was awarded on the edge of the United box. Kone dummied, and Hodge hit a low drive that deflected off a defender and nestled into the bottom corner of the net.

United re-took the lead five minutes later after some good play down the left. A neat one-two saw left-back Ian Turner lose his marker, and collect the ball near the by-line. Darren Lyons met his pinpoint cross, but Simplicie blocked his header on the line. Jeffries appeared to lose his footing as he attempted to dive on the loose ball, and Lyons beat him to it - stabbing home to make it 2-1.

The half time score could have read 3-2 to the visitors instead of 2-1, but Lyons headed over on the half hour mark, and Ohmar Pike struck the visitor's crossbar with a looping cross-shot.

The second half was less frantic than the first, but it was a half that the Crows dominated, and in which the visitors rarely threatened. Leon Clarke replaced pike at half time, and it was he who was instrumental in Cwmbrân's second equaliser.





















New signing Komir stole the ball as Goytre looked to launch a counter attack, and he fed Clarke down the left channel. The former Battersea man skipped past a defender and sent an inviting cross into the box. Richard Lane – who probably covered every blade of grass during the match – out-jumped his marker and sent a looping header beyond the stranded Curtis and into the corner of the net.



With Leon Clarke giving the attack fresh impetus, and no-nonsense defending from the back four, the Crows continued to push for further goals. Unfortunately, more often than not, it was the final ball that let the move down.

As the game looked to be heading for a draw, the unthinkable happened six minutes from time. Lefty Simplicice – who had done well in an unfamiliar centre-back role – looked to tidy up a loose long ball forward from United, but instead of a cushioned pass, he hit a horribly high ball back to Jeffries. The stunned keeper had no option but to attempt to head clear, but the ball fell kindly to Daniel Thomas who had the simple task of lobbing the population of the penalty box to put Goytre 3-2 up.

Football's a cruel game, and although the Crows deserved a point, a lot of positives can be taken from this performance into next week's trip to Cambrian & Clydach.

Team Line-ups & Match Statistics			
Managed by: Guillermo Ganet		Managed by:	
			
Cwmbrân Town		Goytre United	
R.Jeffries	1	C.Curtis	
C.Smith	2	R.Durham (82)	
 S.Komir (88)	3	I.Turner	
B.M.Simplice	4	J.Meacock	
P.Lispie	5	I.Morgan	
 O.Collins (88)	6	M.Charves	
 R.Hodge	7	S.Conaty	
T.Kone	8	J.Walkley (85)	
R.Duncan	9	D.Lyons	
 O.Pike (46)	10	D.Thomas (88)	  
 R.Lane	11	D.Johnston	
 B.Bristow (88)		R.Penny (85)	
 J.Zoil (88)		R.Needs (82)	
C.Lane		D.Gardner (88)	
 L.Clarke (46)			
K.Law			
<b>Referee: G.Hegarty</b>		<b>Attendance: 42</b>	