



MacWhirter Welsh League Division 1

Cwmbrân Stadium

27/09/08



CWMBRÂN TOWN

1

Carless (57)

BRIDGEND TOWN

2

Raven (52), Morgan (88)

Despite dominating the first half, it took the visitors until the 52nd minute to take the lead through ex-Crow Dale Raven. However, parity was restored five minutes later via top scorer Joey Carless. A late penalty decision broke home hearts as Ricki Morgan followed up his saved spot kick to steal all three points.

Bridgend were quick out of the blocks and came close to taking the lead after just six minutes. Tony Wallis got on the end of a cross but Jeffries saved the header superbly.

Wallis came close again around the 20-minute mark, but he put his shot just wide of the goal. Anthony Waters was next to come close, but he shot over the bar from close range.

The Crows steadied the ship after the rocky start and fashioned their first chance, from neat build-up play down the right side. Paul Carro did well to hold the ball up before feeding Carless, who in turn set Ricky Hodge free down the right wing. The skipper clipped a lovely cross into the box but Paul Dawes sent his powerful header a yard or two over the bar.

The visitors brought the half to an end with another good chance; Dale Raven dragging his shot wide after being put clean through.

The Crows started the second half brightly and five minutes in, Carless and Carro linked up well but the latter had his shot blocked by Cropley in the Bridgend goal. Moment later though, the Crows found themselves 1-0 down having been caught on the counter-attack. Brian Showdery overlapped his winger and crossed low for Dale Raven to slot in from 12 yards out. The ex-Crow certainly has a habit of scoring against his former club - three in three encounters now I believe!

The lead didn't last long as Joey Carless scored his fourth goal of the season five minutes later. Paul Carro charged down a hesitant Bridgend defender and battled his way into the box before teeing up Carless. The young striker took the ball in his stride and stroked home coolly.

Shortly after, Jeffries was called on again to deny Bridgend's Waters, before Carless almost scored his second. Some good battling on the edge of the box had the visiting defence at sixes and sevens, and when the ref could have awarded a penalty for handball he instead elected to allow Carless to continue. Unfortunately for the Crows, his left foot shot skimmed the bar.

As the game looked to be heading for a draw, the unthinkable happened. As a Bridgend attacker burst into the box, Paul Carro looked to have made a fine sliding challenge, pushing the ball out for a corner. However, as the Bridgend play went to ground the ref pointed to the spot. After a minute or two of confusion while the ref consulting his assistant, substitute Ricki Morgan confirmed the ref's decision by lining up to take the spot kick.

Richard Jeffries did well diving to his left to keep out Morgan's first attempt, but there was nothing he could do as the loose ball spun into Morgan's path for him to slam home the winner.

The Crows must now pick themselves up for the reverse fixture next weekend at Bridgend's new temporary home at the University of Glamorgan playing fields.

Line-up: Jeffries, Hodge, Nesbitt, Dominic Broad, Hutcheon, Arthur, McKenzie, Dawes, Carro, Carless, C.Lane. **Subs:** Campbell, Morris, Kabi, Guei, Kone.