

FOOTBALL NEWS

March 10th. 1976.

NO. 15

GATEACRE SEVERAL YARDS FASTER AS INSTITUTE CUP RUN ENDS Bad time For 'off' day

Sadly we were well below our normal form in the semi-final and a much faster, direct Gateacre side go through to the final with what was in the end an embarrassing scoreline for us. Indeed this was easily our heaviest defeat in two years of football. Only Diable and Harrison reached their normal form.

I thought of this game, considering our performance, like a mountaineer who is walking in the mist. Every now and again the mist rises and he is afforded a glimpse of the view. Our performance was like this. On rare occasions we showed what we can do, but for much of the game we were outplayed.

The first ten minutes gave no hint of what was to come. Understandably both sides were a little nervous. However after ten minutes a mix up on the right, a lost opportunity to tackle enabled Gateacre to stride through and score. Gateacre struck again soon afterwards and went into a two goal lead with a good shot from one of their strikers. This goal really seemed to 'throw' our side and from now on we always looked like slipping to defeat.

Jarburton had a good run down the right but his attempt was stopped by an excellent tackle. This really was the difference between the sides. We were never given time to settle on the ball, whilst Gateacre found plenty of time to move the ball around. We lacked 'bite' in the tackle and as the game proceeded we lost control of the middle and one of their strikers in particular.

The third goal was a real blow for now hope of a second half revival was severely squashed.

The second half was Collegiate all over again and can be passed over quickly. We were too slow and again and again their fast play caught us out.

Langford scored a consolation goal near the end, but at the other end poor Chellew was left with little cover. Nevertheless I think Chellew will agree that this was not one of his best performances.

We obviously missed our Captain O'shaughnessy in the defence and further bad luck just one hour before the kick off did not help. This was when Hooper dislocated a finger and had to go to hospital instead of play at right back.

To end on a happier note, Diable was the one player who can be pleased with his performance. Right to the end he ran hard, tackled hard and got stuck into the task. Harrison in defence also got stuck in and deserves credit.

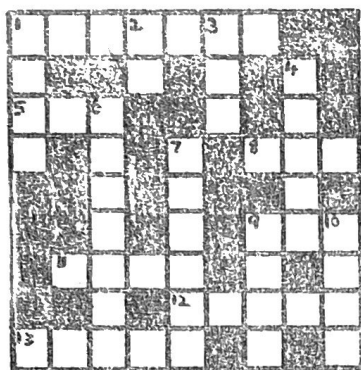
Now let me end on this note. Four games to go. Let us win them all. Some team somewhere is going to pay for this defeat as we search for a huge victory to set us right again.

Even Liverpool were defeated by Tottenham 7-2 on one occasion. Once upon a time Everton were defeated 10-4, but of course there is nothing unusual about that.

Team.

Chellew 5	Bennett 5	Freckleton 6	Harrison 8	Johnson 5
Woods 5	Halewood 3	Regan 6	Jarburton 5	Langford 3
Diable 9	Hanlon 6.			

Thanks to Roberts who patiently stood by on the line at least I can give him a rating of 10.



MR. COOKE'S CROSSWORD.

ACROSS

1. JAMES BOND MIGHT THINK THAT ONE OF THESE WERE EVERLASTING
5. YOU MAKE TEA IN ONE OF THESE IN REVERSE.
8. A SOUTH AFRICAN ANTELOPE
9. THE FIRST THREE LETTERS OF A ROPE WHIP WITH NINE KNOTTED LASHES.
11. FAMOUS AFRICAN RIVER.
12. A CHRISTIAN IN ROMAN TIMES MIGHT HAVE FEARED THESE
13. IF YOU FOUND YOURSELF AT 20° NORTH 15° EAST YOU WOULD PROBABLY LOOK FOR ONE OF THESE.

DOWN.

1. APPOINTMENT : YOU COULD ALSO EAT.
2. COMPANY FOR A SHADOW IN A FAMOUS SONG.
3. THE RANK BELOW BRIGADIER SPELT DIFFERENTLY IS PART OF ONE OF THESE
4. TOMMY STEELE MADE A HIT RECORD ABOUT THE CAPITAL OF THIS COUNTRY. A BOY'S NAME MAKES UP PART.
6. EQUATORIAL AFRICA INHABITANTS THAT LOOK AT THE WORLD FROM A DIFFERENT LEVEL.
7. LARGE HORNLESS RUMINANT LONG NECKED, CUSHION FOOTED, QUAD-
(HORNLESS) - RUPED WITH EITHER ONE OR TWO OF SOMETHING (THE ARABIAN VERSION HAS ONE)
9. MODERATELY COLD
10. A WALRUS WOULD NEED A DENTIST IF HE HAD TROUBLE WITH THIS.

I've made this one up myself. I hope you manage to do it.
Let me know if you can.

TEAM NEWS.

V. OLD HALL.
Saturday 13 March.

AWAY.
Kick off 10 AM.

CHELLEN
BENNETT FRECKLETON
HARRISON JOHNSON NANCOLLIS
CAPTAIN.
WARBURTON LANSON LANGFORD DIABLE REGAN
SUBS HANLON, WHALLEY.
Meet Room 33
1-50 FRIDAY.

SEMI-FINAL OF THE INTERMEDIATE KNOCK-OUT

FOUR-GOAL CURLETT INSPIRES TEAM

ALSOP 1 INSTITUTE 4

WIGGINS (10)

HOLDEN (10)

HARPER (10)

JARMAN (10)

FOULKES (10)

VIRTUE (10)

MITCHELL (10) [capt.]

MANIFOLD (10)

LAWLOR (10)

CURLETT (10)

CONNELLY (10)

SUBS: DERBYSHIRE, ROBERTS.

As can be seen from the marks I have awarded, this was a superb all-round team performance and it would be unfair to single out any player as the man of the match.

The first five minutes were very important, as it was during this period that our midfield men dominated the opposition and Alsop knew that they were up against a superior team. It was only a matter of time before this dominance turned into goals. It was good to see the team going out with confidence and taking the game to the opposition, pressurizing them at all times and not giving them time to think : that's what positive play and thinking can do for a team.

However, we went a goal down in about the tenth minute, and this was probably the first time that Alsop were in our half. Jarman made a poor back-pass & it appears Harper told him to - this was put out ~~for~~ for a corner, and Alsop scrambled the ball in. But the Institute is a team with a lot of character and this temporary setback inspired them to even greater efforts.

Our pressure was eventually rewarded with an equalizer from Curlett : he was sent through the middle on a typical run; he moved out to the right in a diagonal run and sent in a cross shot from the edge of the area and the ball went through the keeper's hands into the net.

We continued to put on the pressure and Mitchell was unlucky to see a good shot cleared off the line with the keeper beaten all ends up.

We turned round at 1-1, but during the half-time talk everyone felt that the game was ours for the taking. However, Alsop came out fighting at the beginning of the half, and this time it was the turn of the defence to show their skills, and this they did very calmly without the slightest sign of panic. Having soaked up some pressure, we then came out at them again and we were soon rewarded with a second goal. We were awarded a free-kick on the right wing: the kick was well taken and floated beautifully to the penalty spot where Curlett was on hand to send a header into the net. In contrast to the Institute, Alsop's heads dropped and the game was ours. I am afraid that I was so involved in the game that I cannot clearly remember the details of the other goals, except that they were well taken by Curlett to take his tally for the season to 24. There was justifiable elation at the end when the whistle went.

Wingers made two excellent saves near the end to confirm the progress he has made since coming into the team. Holden had another outstanding game at full-back and now is in the team to stay - he made several good interceptions and laid the ball off coolly under pressure. On the other flank, foulkes was in inspired form and his winger never got a look in. In the middle Harper and Jarman soaked up the little pressure that was put on them and confirmed the impression that it will take a very good forward line to get past these two towers of strength. The midfield were in inspired form, passing well to one another and running into position to help out their colleagues - indeed, if there had to be a man of the match, I would be inclined to say it was either Virtue or Manifold, so well did they do both of their jobs, attacking and defending. Not that Mitchell did not have his usual brilliant game, inspiring his team by example in a true captain's way. The two wingers were a little subdued, and were unlucky to have two very good full-backs against them - but they came out of the game with much credit. And so to Curlett. I have often accused him of not running enough, but today we had no complaints. We have always known what a good player he can be, and today he proved it, taking four superb goals. From now on I hope he will be inspired by this performance - if he runs as hard in all matches, there will be plenty of goals for him in the future. Well done lads. Everyone was proud of the way you fought for the school.

CUP RESULTS

COLLEGIATE (away)	4-3
ST. ANDREWS (home)	4-0
FAZAKERLEY (home)	7-1
ALSOP	4-1