

FOOTBALL NEWS

January 31 st 1976.

No 10.

REGAN SHOWS THE WAY TO CUP VICTORY

REGAN PLAYS VITAL MIDFIELD ROLE.
DIBLE SCORES IMPORTANT GOALS.

Institute 2 Alson 1 Dible 2.

This was a closely fought cup tie that we deserved to win, mainly because of our greater skill and attacking pressure.

After a hard frost the ground was rock hard, but being well looked after it was perfectly playable. As the game commenced there was a sharp snow shower. Institute had slightly more of the play in the first 15 minutes but there were no clear chances for a goal. Half way through the first half Institute took the lead. Langford forced his way into the penalty area and his persistence paid off when Dible picked up the loose ball and hammered it into the net. Shortly after we were lucky to hold on to our lead when Alson hit the post after a quick breakaway attack.

Regan stood out in the first half, playing in midfield he constantly broke up possible Alson attacks and his distribution of the ball was very good.

Shortly after the start of the second half disaster struck Institute. A long, rather harmless looking shot from 30 yards bounced through Chellew's hands into the goal. Chellew was playing this game under a slight handicap having a bad cold and also suffering the effect of a hard knock earlier in the game.

For 5 minutes this goal spurred Alson on and in this period the game could easily have been lost. However, we weathered the storm and came back strongly.

In the last 15 minutes most of the play took place in the Alson half. Langford should have scored after 12 minutes, the hard ground prevented him from getting the ball under control. Regan again took control of the midfield where it was apparent that we were not at our best. Indeed if Regan had not played so well in this area we could have been in serious trouble. Freckleton again impressed with his cool play at left back.

Often he looks as if he is going to get himself into a tight spot but his calm, uncomplicated, methodical play always seems to pay off.

O'shaughnessy kept his team pushing forward and this obvious pressure paid off with 12 minutes to play. From a throw on the right the ball eventually was kicked into the middle. Alson were fortunate to not concede a penalty and from the scramble that followed First Dible then Halewood had shots blocked. Dible made no mistake the second time cracking the ball home.

With 5 minutes left Hooper replaced Woods and twice played the side out of trouble. With almost the last kick of the game Alson nearly equalised.

Again this was a good all round team effort. Regan was my man of the match with O'shaughnessy and Freckleton close behind.

Let us not forget Hooper and Harrison who provided necessary cover in the role of substitute. On a cold day like this it is no easy job.

Details of the semi final will be announced later.

TEAM.

Chellew: Bennett: Freckleton: Woods (Hooper) :Johnson: O'shaughnessy: Regan:
Dible: Langford: Warburton: Halewood: Sub. Harrison.

CREDITABLE DRAW FOR B TEAM

ROBERTS PLAYS WELL IN GOAL.

FEARON AND STUART SUPPORT HIM WELL.

Institute 2 Netherley 2

Goals . Hanlon. Lawson.

Team. Roberts: Fearon: Stuart: Bostock: Ventre: Hanlon: Lawson: Mansley:
Hassell. Capt.: McGee: Hamilton:

This was a very good result when one considers that this was our B team and we were playing Netherley A team. Also 5 of the original players picked were not available and replacements had to be drafted. All players did very well in bad conditions and I am very pleased with the squad.

Institute scored first when Hanlon found the back of the net with his shot. Roberts made several good saves in the first half and Fearon, on his debut impressed at right back. Stuart again played well at left back following his good performances earlier in the season.

At half time the score was 1-0 for Institute but shortly into the second half Netherley scored and then they took the lead with what was very doubtful offside goal. Mansley could not find his best form and the hard pitch was obviously not a help to several other players.

In the second half of the game Lawson showed up a little more and it was Lawson who cracked home the equaliser.

FOOTBALL POETS

By Mr. COOKE.

Sir Walter Scott wrote these lines about a game played in Ettrick Forest in 1815.

From the brown crest of Newark its summons extending
Our signal is waving in smoke and in flame,
And each Forester blithe from his mountain descending
Bounds light o'er the heather to get in the game.
Then strip, lads, and to it, though sharp be the weather;
And if by mischance you should happen to fall,
There are worse things in life than a tumble on heather,
And life is itself but a game of football!

Although a cripple, Sir Walter Scott was keenly interested in the game and refers to it many times in his writings.

Football on Shrove Tuesdays used to play a great part in people's lives:

'Pantakes and Fritters',
Says All Saints and St. Peters;
'When will the ball come?'
Says the bells of St. Alkmun;
'At two they will throw,'
Says Saint Werbo;
'O! Very well!'
Says little Michel.

This song of Derbyshire refers to the famous street-game between All Saints and St. Peters which is still played from time to time.

FOOTBALL IN ANCIENT CHINA !

Yellow Emperors, silken nets, and a
Flogging for the losing side.



These two strange signs are the title of this story. They are Chinese characters. The first one is pronounced tsu and means 'To-kick -with -the-foot'. The second one, pronounced chu, is explained as 'A ball made of - leather - and - filled -with- something- to -allow- it- to- be- kicked- about- for- recreation- if- you- have- time -for- it...'.

Chinese characters, as you see, say a lot of things all at once. And, instead of reading them from left to right, you read downwards. Tsu Chu was the name given to a kind of football played in China over two thousand years ago. A 'Yellow Emperor', who never really existed, is thought to have ~~EXISTED~~ invented it. Chinese writers have described the game in considerable detail and it was (actually) part of military training in the year 300 BC. A kind of mock battle of attack and defence with centre attacks and supporting columns from right and left wings, with defence in depth and a base or goal to be gained.

It was a game of some social standing. The Emperor Ch'eng Ti, for instance, who lived from 32 to 6 BC., played it with skill. Some say that his ministers complained that the game was too physically exhausting and therefore unsuitable for the dignity of an Emperor. And his Empress suggested that a more fitting game for him would be 'tip-counters' - tiddly winks. But he ignored their approaches and summed up a great truth when he said: 'We like playing and what we like to do cannot really exhaust us'.

A later Emperor, Hsitsung of the T'ang dynasty, gave the game his full patronage and in 881 AD. even put to death a minister who ventured to suggest that it was unseemly.

From the manuscripts it seems that the ball used was 'a round bag formed from 8 strips of leather pointed at the ends and stuffed with hair'. From the 5th century onwards special attention was paid to the inflation of the ball. The games, too, are described in some detail. One record states: 'The players form themselves into two teams and the game is decided by points gained for kicking the ball over a silken net stretched between two high bamboo poles tens of feet in height'. Another writer describes a very stirring scene.

'On the Emperors' birthday 2 teams played football before the Royal Pavilion. A goal was erected, over thirty feet high, adorned with gay silks and having an opening of over a foot in diameter. The ball had to be kicked through the opening, each of the players taking it in turn to kick and getting points for successes. The winners were rewarded with fruit, flowers and wine, with silver cups and brocaded hats. The captain of the losing side was flogged and made to suffer much indignity'.

The documents also tell players how to take a kick. 'The body should be straight as a pencil, with hands hanging down as though carrying things. There should be great elasticity of movement and the feet should be as though they are jumping or skipping'.

More than seventy different kinds of kicks are explained with a great

deal of elaboration. Eleven conditions are given where the kick is a foul - but no penalties seem to have been attached. In ten special cases all play had to be avoided, for instance on a windy day, or when the ground was slippery; by candle-light, after drinking wine, and so forth.

THE GOOD PLAYER.

'Shooting in at goal' was not the only game. Ball-control was the essence of a series of movements 'when the ball was never away from the foot, nor the foot from the ball' - the forerunner of effective dribbling. Again: 'The good player uses his shoulders, his back, his breast and his belly, making the ball run round his body without dropping, at the same time withstanding several antagonists'. Evidently the player in possession of the ball could be tackled or charged in those days.

The game too, inspired poetry and Li -Yu (50-130 A.D.) wrote this inscription for a football ground.

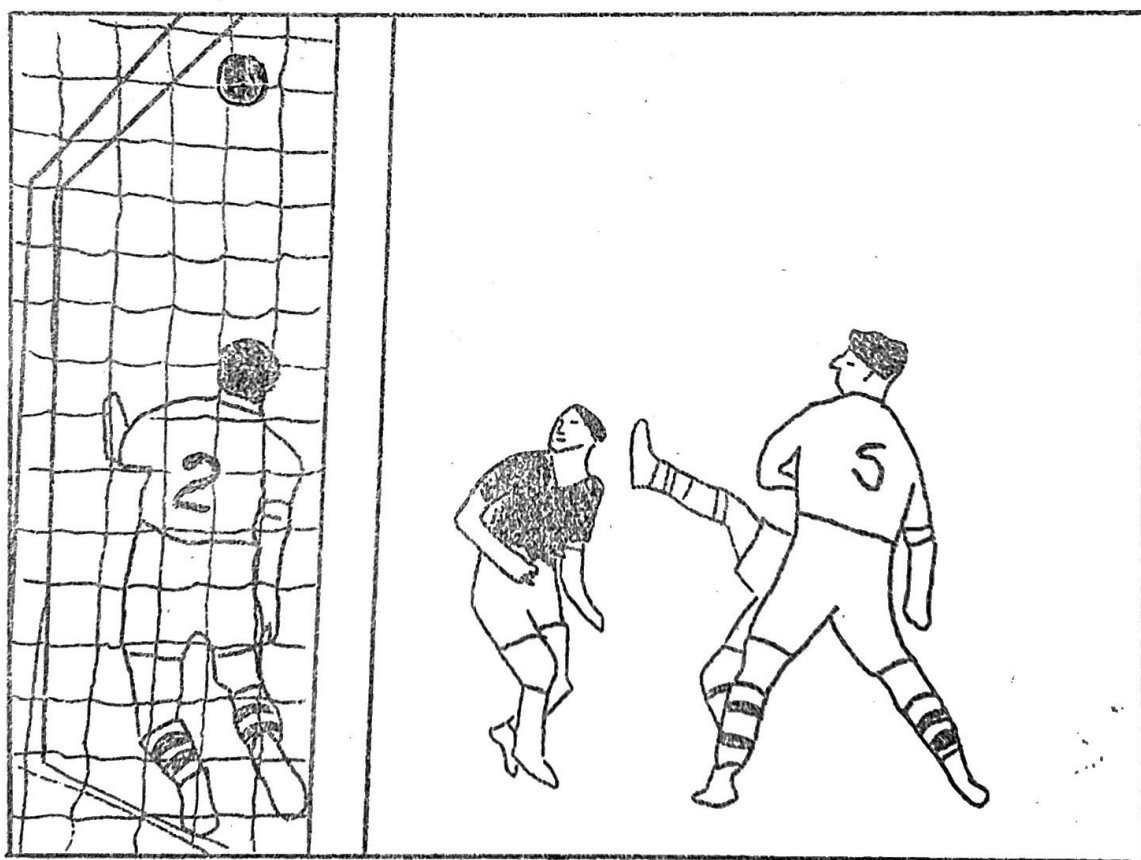
A round ball and an oblong space, with two teams standing opposed. The ball flies across like the moon at the full. Captains are appointed and take their places in accordance with regulation unchanging

In the game make no allowance for kith and kin and let not your mind be swayed by partialities.

Be cool and determined and show not the slightest irritation when you fail.

SPOT THE BALL

SOLUTION



WINNER. Stephen Kane 18

Come and see Mr. Cooke sometime at the end of the week

----- EDITORS JOTTINGS -----

Football is full of luck - good luck and bad luck, too. What is good luck for one side is bad luck for the other.

What is important is to take the rough with the smooth. You know, sometimes when I watch football on television I am caused to wonder if we can really call the game a sport. Grown men arguing with referees, punching, kicking each other, and showing resentment against decisions that do not please them.

I think it is important to understand the importance of self discipline on the field. I play a great deal of cricket and on many occasions feel annoyed when I am the victim of what I consider a harsh umpiring decision. Yet it is vital that you learn to accept these decisions otherwise you let not only yourself down but the team also.

Usually things tend to level out and one day you find that things go well for you and this can compensate for the day when you get all the 'rough breaks'.

I went to watch Southport on Saturday and stood in front of a man who throughout the whole game was moaning about the referee. He blamed the ref for everything. I think he might even have thought that the ref had something to do with the canteen running out of hot soup before he got to the queue front. The constant abuse forced me to ask him if ~~not~~ Southport's poor performances might have something to do with bad football and not the referee. He would have none of it. The referee was to blame and in his eyes this is the same every week. I suppose he has every right to think what he likes. He said his money and maybe it his way of getting something out of his system. Poor referees that have to go to Southport.

The point I am making is do not find excuses for a bad performance if the real reason is you are just not good enough. If this is the case go away and practice and try to make your game better.

Incidentally I used to go to watch Southport a lot. My father first took me about 1950. I remember he used to take a wooden box for me to stand on. I can remember a really exciting game against Grimsby 4-3 for Southport. I rather enjoyed the match on Saturday.

Tranmere had all the play in the first half but Southport could easily have won in the second.

Well I said that luck was one of the necessary ingredients for success in football.

That was not quite correct - or only correct if, by success, you mean winning matches. The real success at football is the player who is a SPORTSMAN, and the team who can take defeat and bad luck with a smile and a cheer for the winning side. If you can do this, you will always be successful, lucky or unlucky, win or lose, and you will be a credit to the game.

Need I add, 'good luck'?

Well the quiz in last week's football news. Stephen Brunskill handed the first answer sheet but unfortunately made one error.

The next entry was a couple of answers from sixth formers.

I think their entries were formulated from 'black market' football news. Anyway their handwriting was far too untidy. Therefore I have decided to give the consolation prize to Brunskill.

Right with that out of the way I must mention our intrepid groundstaff. The nets for last Saturday's game were put up with much hard work by Mr. Wass. Many thanks. He was keen to point out that the nets were kindly donated by Fred. Thanks a million Fred.

The essay. Well I have only had one entry and we are now past the closing date. Therefore I shall award the prize to the only entrant at the end of the season.

Thinking back on last week's games I am even more pleased with the B team when I hear that all the other school teams lost against Netherley. The THIRD years (I say again) 3 years actually going down 5-1. Yes well done my B team. It was a fine performance.

Well we are now in the semi finals and this game will be played on a neutral ground later on in term.

Our opponents are Gateacre.

We defeated Gateacre last season on their ground 2-1. This year we won at home by the same score.

They are tough opponents who play the game very hard. Nevertheless we have no reason to doubt that we can beat them again.

They defeated De La Salle 6-1 in the quarter finals.

I telephoned De La Salle yesterday and they told me one or two things. They have a good number 9. He is a fast striker. They have a move that they use straight from the kick off involving this player. This is a real challenge for Brian Johnson for it is his job to play this striker out of the game. They also have 2 good wingers. Nevertheless their full backs can be exploited. Lets hope Halewood can do something about this. Okay Joey?

In the next few weeks the games we shall play are as follows.

Feb. 14th	Prescot	Away
Feb. 14 th	Ormonde	Away
Feb. 21 st	Brookfield	Home
Feb. 28 th	Maricourt	Away
Mar. 6 th	Ruffwood	Home
Mar. 13 th	Old Hall	Away
Mar. 20 th	St. Kevin	Home
Mar. 27 th	Yew Tree	Away

B team games to be arranged as and when I can.

The team for next weeks game against Prescot is as follows.

Chellaw. Harrison. Freckleton. O'shaughnessy. Johnson.

Hooper. Regan. Diable. Langford. Warburton. Halewood.

Subs. Bennett. Woods. (Team meeting to be announced)

The other semi final will be played between S.F.X. and the winners of the West Derby V Halewood game.

The photograph session did not go as well as I had hoped last week. I did manage to take about nine photographs. The remaining 11 exposures will be used up on a team photograph and individual player portraits. I will do this in the yard as soon as the weather looks like 'perking up'

The Football tour. I have come across great snags here. My efforts to arrange a tour for 5 days on the continent have failed because one must apply before November in order to go the following Easter. Also shortage of time is making any other arrangements difficult. If it is impossible to arrange a tour in the immediate future these plans will have to be shelved until next season.

Finally I was sorry to hear that Rogers 2A has injured his knee and may not be able to play again this season. All members of the squad wish him a speedy recovery to match fitness.

Well thats all for now. See you in Football News No. 11.

RJ Toole
Editor.