

Date: 2 November 1895
Opposition: Newton Heath
Competition: League

Mercury

2 November
1895

Liverpool Mercury

AND LANCASHIRE, CHESHIRE, AND GENERAL SPORTS.

LIVERPOOL v. NEWTON HEATH.

Liverpool journeyed to Manchester on Saturday to play their return engagement with the senior club of Cottonopolis. Owing to sickness, the team was not up to its usual strength, while the Heathens played their full team. The ground was packed to its utmost capacity, there being present about 10,000 to 12,000 spectators. The names of the respective sides were:—Liverpool: Whitehead, goal; Goldie and Wilkie, backs; Keitch, M'Que, and M. M'Queen, half-backs; Hannah, Ross, Geary, Becton, and Bradshaw, forwards. Newton Heath: Douglas, goal; Dow and Errentz, backs; Cartwright, M'Naught, and Fitzsimmons, half-backs; Clarkin, Kennedy, Cassidy, Smith, and Peters, forwards. Referee, Mr. J. Lewis. Ross won the choice of ends, and naturally elected to play with the wind, which at the commencement of the game was blowing half a gale. Immediately upon commencing operations the Liverpool forwards took up the running, and by means of neat and effective touches carried the play into their opponents' quarters, and after Dow had made one or two weak returns M'Que settled on the ball and put to Ross, who in turn sent on to Becton, and that player, with a simple-looking shot, defeated Douglas within the first five minutes of the start of the game. On restarting, the Liverpool men again came in greater prominence and, assisted by the breeze, they bore down upon the Mancunians, and as the result of some clever work by Geary, Bradshaw, and Becton, a corner was forced off Dow, which, being finely taken by M'Queen, was splendidly headed into the net by Ross, this second point coming after ten minutes' play. In no way disheartened, the home eleven went on with their work with a quiet yet very earnest air, and ere long Cassidy had pulled his men together in excellent style, and the aspect of the game became quite changed. After a bully in the goal mouth Whitehead was completely beaten by Cassidy, but to the chagrin of the supporters the referee disallowed the point for one of the attacking forwards jumping to the goal mouth. The disappointment was not of any duration, however, for keeping up the assault in tremendous fashion the Heathens obtained a corner, which Peters very cleverly shot into the net. From this point the Liverpool men gradually deteriorated, and consequently the home eleven improved, and had the leather past Whitehead again, and again the point was nullified, offside being the reason this time. It mattered little, however, for after Becton had missed the easiest chance of the match from a dashing run by Hannah, the Heathens returned to the attack, and Peters being put in possession by Cassidy, shot a grand goal after a short sprint, which, had Whitehead been in ordinary trim, might have been saved. Following this the Heathens played a winning game, although three corners in succession fell to the share of the visitors, while Hannah only missed heading into the net by inches from a grand lob into goal by M'Que. Going away in magnificent style, the Manchester eleven fairly bombarded

the Liverpool goal, three consecutive shots being levelled at the custodian's charge without effect, but as the result of a weak return by the distressed Liverpoolians, Peters nipped in and placed his side ahead. By putting a little more dash into their play the Liverpool forwards opened it up somewhat, and up to half-time had more of the game than their opponents, but lacked the necessary dash to enable them to score. Having now the wind, it was any odds that the home team would sail home easy winners, and, in spite of the Liverpool men shaping well at the outset, the homesters again rallied, and after about a quarter of an hour's play Cassidy led his men splendidly, and, parting to Smith at an opportune moment, the latter dashed past Goldie, and added the fourth goal with an oblique grounder. A little later on, just as Liverpool were showing signs of distinct improvement, foul tactics by the home defence bowled first one and then another over, and although both sides were now having an equal share of the play, the visitors were never allowed to get within shooting range. A free kick given against Goldie was taken by M'Naught, and the ball, after bobbing about the goalmouth for some little time, was at length popped into the net by Clarkin. This further disaster quite upset the Anfield eleven, and for a while they made a most inglorious display, being penned up in their goalmouth; but, as the result of a sprint by Bradshaw and Geary, Hannah drove the leather past Douglas, but was given offside. Immediately afterwards the whistle blew, leaving the Newton Heath winners by 5 goals to 2, after a grand and exciting contest.

Date: 2 November 1895
Opposition: Newton Heath
Competition: League

Mercury

2 November
1895

Liverpool Mercury

While Everton are slowly but surely pulling themselves together, the Liverpool team are certainly on the downward grade. To lose four away matches in a month, especially at such an early period of the season, bodes ill for their chance of the championship, or even their chance of competing in the test matches. The aggravating feature, too, is that three out of the four losses have been almost free gifts to their opponents. If ever a team—and particularly a powerful combination like Liverpool—had a great opportunity of covering themselves with glory it was that team on Saturday last. Against equal teams a lead of two goals is always considered good enough for a win, and the failure of Ross's men to grasp such a chance is a sure sign of a great underlying weakness. Even with the absence of Holmes and M'Vean borne in mind, the substitutes, M'Queen and Hannah, are of such good quality that the extraordinary and tremendous defeat cannot be put down to that cause altogether. It appears rather to be a want of esprit de corps, primarily, and secondly a woeful lack of dash and common-sense methods of the whole eleven, and especially of the forwards, when playing away from home. Immediately the visitors had obtained their two goals they went in for a lot of "parlour" play, which, although appearing very nice from a spectator's point of view, allows a determined team to gather themselves together. If the Liverpool forwards had kept the pace up to the pressure they started at they would without much doubt have demoralised the Heathens, for at the stage they began to ease up and indulge in a lot of finessing, both Dow and Errentz were very shaky in their clearances, the former especially, and it but required the rubbing-in process to be adopted to have completely and effectually won the game. On account of the forwards slackening in their efforts, a natural consequence was that the half-backs and backs were given more than their share of work, and they, not meeting the rushing tactics of the Newton forwards in the proper manner, were rather easily beaten, and then made matters worse by becoming flurried. Had there been but one calm, level-headed, and reliable back the game might have been saved; but unfortunately it was not to be, and in a very short time the home eleven had rushed two goals. From this point the visitors were a beaten and disorganised team, and no department did anything worthy of their reputation. Whitehead's inclusion, as it afterwards turned out to be, was a serious mistake. He has only just recovered from a severe attack of typhoid fever, and took the field with nerves as unstrung as it was possible for them to be, and, as a result, was unwittingly the direct cause of the loss of more than one goal. Neither Goldie nor Wilkie ever approached the high standard exhibited against Notts County the week previous, although the latter did himself greater justice towards the end of the game. Goldie was weak throughout, and for some inexplicable reason kept missing the ball, even when no opponent was near him. The half-back play was but of a mediocre description, M'Que being the best of the trio on the whole, yet he never

got the weight of Cassidy. He was continually falling on the floor when tackling one or another of his opponents, seeming quite unable to maintain his balance. M'Queen, perhaps due to the shortcomings of Beeton, was but little an evidence at the start, but towards the finish he had completely mastered his opposing wing. Keitch throughout the encounter appeared over anxious, and consequently being too highly tried floundered about with but a small degree of success against the extremely smart left wing of the Manchester club. After a display of some very pretty and close work between the three inside forwards at the outset nothing of note was performed by this trio, and on the day's play the most successful workers were Hannah and Geary. Beeton was a rank failure throughout for so great a player, and it is apparent to the merest novice of the game that he is entirely out of condition, and there is no question that he has trespassed in this fashion in several previous games. On the day's form Hannah appeared the most fit of the quintet, and what is more was a thorough trier. Bradshaw at home, and Bradshaw away are two different players, while he has developed a too-clever flashy style of play, which is more suited for a schoolboy's team in a public park than for a high-class player. Ross found more than his match in M'Naught, and was given no quarter, while his generalship can be questioned for not altering his tactics, or at least the modus operandi of the team, when he saw the gradual deterioration. Of the Newton Heath team, every sportsman can give them nothing but unstinted praise. To be two goals behind, and that too against a stiff wind, and then to draw the game out of the fire, so to speak, and eventually win in such a handsome manner is indeed a glorious feat, and one they deserve the highest compliments for. They saw the chance when Liverpool eased up, and quickly availed themselves of it, and to M'Naught and Cassidy are the chief honours due. The manner the Heathens' centre pioneered his forwards was a great treat, especially the way he opened up chances for the left wing, Smith and Peters, and by a happy combination of the two styles of forward play he brought his attack up to a point of irresistibility. The contest taken altogether was a grand one, and pleased their supporters, as can be easily imagined, immensely.