

Date: 28 March 1896  
Opposition: Crewe Alexandra  
Competition: League

Mercury

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## Liverpool Mercury,

### LIVERPOOL v. CREWE ALEXANDRA.

Owing to the wintry character of the weather at Crewe on Saturday, it was thought at first that the match would not be played, and consequently the crowd was of the most meagre proportion. Both sides were representative ones, Liverpool being without Ross, and Crewe missing the services of Stafford, who has gone to Newton Heath. A fierce wind blew from goal to goal, and M'Que, who acted as captain, having lost the toss, was forced to face the storm. Early on it was evident that the visitors were much superior in speed and tactics to their rivals, and being in a good vein, had four goals recorded by half-time, Allan obtaining the first, M'Que the second—a splendid effort—Allan following with another, while M'Vean added the fourth. On resuming Allan again soon piloted another past Latham, and in spite of Liverpool having at this stage all the play, only two other goals were chalked up, M'Vean accounting for the sixth, while Berton with a superb effort put on the seventh, at which result the game concluded, the home team being powerless to score.

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The Liverpool team are just now in a most deadly earnest mood, which, if sustained, bodes ill for the clubs who will have the qualified pleasure of meeting them in the test matches. Like the eleven the Anfield Club met the week before, Burton Swifts, they have dealt with Crewe Alexandra in exactly the same manner, and have scored 13 goals to 1—6 to 1 at Anfield, and 7 to nil away. The dreadful state of the weather, a heavy snowstorm having fallen in the early morning, caused the ground at Crewe to be almost unplayable, while the atmosphere, with the rain and wind was of icy coldness. As can be easily understood, the players from Liverpool were considerably less troubled by the adverse elements than the amateurs, and no doubt the Anfield mudlarks or ploughers owe their handsome victory partly to this account. The "Amateurs," as viewed and judged by Saturday's form, are indeed well-named, and thoroughly deserve the position they occupy in the league table. For slight-built men, however, they were most assiduous with their attentions to the visitors, who, on the whole, were oftener upset than the Alexandrans. The game was characterised by the very earnest display of the Lancashire men during the first-half. Nothing was missed or allowed to go a-begging, while nothing was given away, and this, too, it must be remembered, in the teeth of the gale. Towards the finish the Crewe backs showed a very nasty spirit towards their antagonists, and it took the referee all his time to keep both sides in check. Where all played so well and so effectively, it is difficult to individualise to any extent. Storer had about half a dozen awkward shots to negotiate, and he attended to them in an excellent manner. In fact, his display was about his very best and most confident so far with the Anfield club. Goldie and Wilkie are a pair, when coupled together, whose names are synonymous with safety, and they excelled themselves on Saturday. The greater share fell to Wilkie, and his kicking against the wind was well-nigh perfect. Of the halves, so well did each fulfil his mission that it is no easy matter to spot one better than his fellow. Allan was the shining light among an eager set of forwards, Becton for the nonce working extremely hard to feed both the centre and his partner. As

an inside right Geary created a capital impression, while M'Vean still showed that the improvement of late is even still further likely to be added to or enlarged. Bradshaw did a great amount of straightforward work, and was responsible for more than one goal being obtained. With less tricky and more plain, un-garnished, but correct football this brilliant exponent can soon acquire his old reputation, especially if he regains his fine turn of speed, which seems to have slightly deteriorated. Among the very moderate set of players attached to the Crewe team, Lathom in goal was by no means a novice, but both backs missed a lot of play by being too fond of rushing at the Liverpool forwards, and being repeatedly foiled. The centre half, Simpson, worked well and to the purpose, but had to leave the field through an injury. The forwards were a rather disjointed but spirited crew, and made several capital and dangerous bursts in response to the frantic cries of the handful of spectators. Peake, the centre forward, was about the best representative.