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 Competition: League Cup

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## THE TIMES

Rush moves level with Hunt's club record in cup win

Chesterfield 1 Liverpool 4 (Liverpool win 8-5 on agg)

A PIECE of history was created at tiny Saltergate last night, but not in the way that Chesterfield had dreamed. The honour went not to the third division club, who had dared to embarrass Liverpool in their own grander home a fortnight ago, but to one of their opponents.

Ian Rush, in equalling the club record of 286 goals established by Roger Hunt a couple of decades ago, set his own indelible seal on a victory which was predictable even before the teams had changed ends. Liverpool, ultimately, won with plenty to spare. Yet, amid their worse start to a League season for 39 years, they had to endure further profound anxiety during the second leg of the Coca-Cola Cup second-round tie. Within eight minutes, a defence which was once renowned for its security had needlessly conceded another goal.

If Liverpool are nowadays represented largely by fresh-faced youths, the equally unfamiliar setting in which they found themselves was a throwback to the old days. One of the tightest grounds in the country is eliminated by lights apparently no stronger than a row of candles.

Liverpool's vulnerability at the back, though, could be seen vividly as Nicol, acting as the captain, aimed an ambitious pass down the flank to McManaman. It was comfortably intercepted by Carr and, after exchanging with Morris, he released Hebbard beyond a spreadeagled rear guard.

Grobbeelaar, on his 35th birthday, was evaded by the player who has already climbed the peak in the competition. Six years ago Hebbard collected a winners' medal with Oxford United and, in steering his shot into the vacant net, he pointed Chesterfield towards the most improbable of triumphs and the greatest in their history.

Nobody in the capacity crowd could have dared expect such an early lift. In a sense, however, it was counter-productive. Liverpool, still a collection of raw novices, knew they had to forsake caution and attack if they were to establish their authority and restore the club's fragmented reputation.

They did so before half-time. Chesterfield's policy of protecting themselves with a sweeper, Brien, left them outnumbered in midfield and susceptible on the wings. It was there that Walters, on the left, and especially McManaman, on the right, began to infiltrate the organisation of the hosts.

Marsh, acting in support of McManaman, crossed for Rush to head down into the path of Hutchison. He equalised by guiding his shot into the gap between Leonard and the far post to claim his third goal of the tie.

When Norris conceded possession near the halfway line, he inadvertently left his defence open to a swift counter-attack. It was mounted by Walters, with an astute lob, and completed by Redknapp. After competing with the third division team for more than two hours, Liverpool were finally ahead and conclusively so. Any prospect of a Chesterfield win as famous as the town's crooked spire effectively disappeared a few minutes before the end of the first half. Redknapp released Rosenthal on the left and, although he dragged wide his attempt, it fell conveniently for Walters, who extended Liverpool's lead from close range. Burrows and Williams were both cautioned before Rush, with the assistance of Marsh, completed the scoring and elevated himself to the stature of one of Liverpool's enduring heroes.

Yet his strike was one of his least distinguished. Initially, he failed to control the low cross, but was still allowed time to prod home.

CHESTERFIELD: M Leonard; P Lemon, C Carr, S Williams, A Brien, L Rogers, S Cash, S Norris (sub: L Turnbull), A Morris, D Lancaster, T Hebbard.

LIVERPOOL: B Grobbeelaar; M Marsh, D Burrows, S Nicol, T Piechnik, S Hutchison, S McManaman, R Rosenthal, I Rush, J Redknapp, M Walters.

Referee: G Ashby.

## the guardian

Liverpool crush raised aspirations

TIMES may be hard for Liverpool, but not that hard. After the 4-4 draw at Anfield in the first leg, and the tremors of disbelief that scoreline caused throughout football, it was perhaps inevitable that normality - or what passes for normality in Graeme Souness's team - would be restored.

Yet Chesterfield made the best of starts; Hebbard put them ahead with his left foot inside the first 10 minutes.

Only a limited number of Spire-ite fans had seen Norris give their team the lead at Anfield. Now it seemed the whole of Chesterfield was packed into the Recreation Ground, the Derbyshire hills leaping to their jubilant cries.

A free-kick by Lemon had already found its way on to the head of Morris with portentous ease. A quick thrust down the left exposed Liverpool completely and as Grobbeelaar hurtled off his line Hebbard kept his head admirably, avoided the goalkeeper and carefully found the unguarded goal.

'Souness, Souness, what's the score?' shouted the fans behind Leonard's goal. Grobbeelaar raised an arm in the general direction of his fellow defenders, venting his disgust. Nobody tarried to argue back.

Instead Liverpool pressed forward, and an equaliser was not long in coming.

McManaman exposed the first hints of uncertainty in the home defence, Redknapp probed further and then Leonard made a splendid save to his left from Walters.

Hutchison finally converted this pressure into an equaliser of stark simplicity. The Third Division club's initial thrust and confidence were lost.

McManaman continued to tease and twist down the right but it was another moment of the utmost simplicity that saw Liverpool go ahead for the first time in this remarkable tie. Redknapp was put in the clear by a ball through the middle, Leonard perhaps reacted a little slowly and the midfielder tucked the ball neatly past him.

A third goal for Liverpool just before half-time was more than Chesterfield could bear. Rosenthal broke free on the left and his low cross was pushed in from close range by Walters. There was a huge round of applause at half-time but it was more in sympathy for Chesterfield than in expectation of great things to come.

Sure enough, Liverpool increased their lead shortly after the interval through Rush - equalling Roger Hunt's record of 286 goals for the club - and that was just about that, although the 3-0 half-time score in Chesterfield's favour at Anfield two weeks ago will surely never be forgotten by either team.

Chesterfield: Leonard; Lemon, Carr, Williams, Brien, Rogers, Cash, Norris, Morris (Turnbull, 60min), Lancaster, Hebbard.

Liverpool: Grobbeelaar; Marsh, Burrows, Nicol, Piechnik, Hutchison, McManaman, Rosenthal, Rush, Redknapp, Walters.

Referee: G Ashby (Worcester).