

Date: 2 February 1895
 Opposition: Barnsley St Peter's
 Competition: FA Cup

Mercury	Sheffield Independ.	

2 February 1895

THE SHEFFIELD AND BOTHERHAM INDEPENDENT.

BARNSELY ST. PETER'S v. LIVERPOOL.

NARROW VICTORY FOR LIVERPOOL.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Saturday was a great day for the Association game at Barnsley, when Liverpool had to face the Barnsley St. Peter's team on their ground, at Oakwell, in the first round of the English Cup competition. On Thursday the ground lay covered with eight or nine inches depth of snow. Men were engaged and the ground was cleared. The turf was hard, and there were occasional patches of frozen snow, whilst the thaw which set in on Friday had softened the surface. Sand had been freely used to enable the players to gain a firmer footing, but after the game had been in progress about half an hour the turf became greasy, and seriously interfered with good play. The weather was dull and damp, but fully 5000 spectators were present, the gate realising about £140. The visitors' team turned out as announced, but unfortunately the home-ers had to make several alterations, which destroyed combination and weakened the attack. Tom Smith, the speedy right winger, was not able to take his place as expected, owing to the injury to his arm. Cutts took his place, and Thompson was put inside left, whilst Vost appeared again in the centre position.

It was about the advertised time, 2.30, when Bradshaw started the play against the slope. In the opening stages the visitors' front rank got in the Barnsley quarters, but Nixon kicked finely, and kept them back. The first free kick fell to the "Saints," and a corner was conceded, but this was got safely away. The visitors' forwards got possession, and, after a pretty run, Ross, having dodged Nixon, had the goal at his mercy, but muffed his shot, which went outside. The home left tried to make headway, and a fruitless corner followed. Partridge had an opening, but M'Queen saved promptly, and J. M'Lean gave a corner in clearing a shot from Bairato, but no score accrued. Drummond raced away finely, giving Hannah a beautiful opening, but he failed miserably. The Liverpool front men broke away in brilliant fashion, and Greaves effected a lucky save from Bradshaw, while at the other end Keech was troublesome. Directly afterwards the visitors got dangerously near, and M'Vean shot a lucky goal, after 35 minutes' play. The ball slowly passing over Greaves' foot in his attempt to kick out. The play in the remaining 10 minutes was all in favour of the visitors, whose forwards showed their skill in speed and tactics to marked advantage. At the interval the score was—Liverpool, 1 goal; St. Peter's, 0.

When the contest was renewed M'Vean got off, and just shot outside, and Keech later headed away, whilst

Greaves saved in the first few minutes. Partridge got off and centred finely, but Cutts missed the chance, and again he was at fault with an opportunity given to him by Black. Vost gave M'Queen the warmest shot of the day, but he kept it out, though it cost a corner, but nothing further resulted. The visitors looked to have matters fairly easy. Ross ran prettily, and, dodging Nixon, left the ball for M'Vean to carry through, but he made a miserable attempt. The home-ers got to the other end, and a spirited attack enabled Cutts to equalise, with only ten minutes off time. There was loud cheering, and play became keen. Liverpool strove hard for the winning point, but it did not come, time being called, with the score:—

LIVERPOOL..... 1 goal.

BARNSELY ST. PETER'S..... 1 goal.

After a few minutes' breathing time the referee called the teams face to face again, for half an hour extra time. The heavy going had told its tale, and though the Barnsley officials were adverse to restarting, Vost kicked off down hill. The visitors at once worked hard, but were driven back. Vost made a good run, and Hey sent in a couple of well directed shots which M'Queen only just got away, whilst Thompson had a lovely chance, but lifted the ball over the cross-bar. The visitors' defence fell off considerably, but the home attack was indifferent, and the first quarter closed with the score still reading:—Liverpool, 1; St. Peter's, 1. Crossing over, the visitors' forwards were exceedingly threatening. Drummond worked hard, as did Ross, but they could not get through. Hannah went through the home defence with the ball at his toes, but Greaves then beat him, rushing forward to the ball. Drummond centred nicely, and after one or two faults Ross scored the winning point, with a weak shot, which should have been cleared. This settled matters, and the whistle blew soon afterwards, both teams having had enough, with the score:—

LIVERPOOL..... 2 goals.

ST. PETER'S..... 1 goal.

BARNSELY ST. PETER'S.—Greaves, goal; Coupe and Nixon, backs; Keech, Hey, and Black, half-backs; Cutts, Bairato, Vost, Thompson, and Partridge, forwards.

LIVERPOOL.—M'Queen, goal; Curran and D. M'Lean, backs; M'Cartney, M'Quee, and J. M'Lean, half-backs; M'Vean, Ross, Bradshaw, Hannah, and Drummond, forwards.

Mr. M. F. Roberts, Derby, referee; Messrs. J. Lowles and G. Hickinbottom, linesmen.

PROTEST BY ST. PETER'S.

After the match the officials of St. Peter's lodged a protest with the referee against the win, under Rule 17, which provides that extra time shall only be played when both the teams mutually consent. It is contended in support of the protest that verbal protest was made to the referee before the extra half-hour's play was commenced, and therefore under the rule the referee had no power to make extra time compulsory. The matter will come before the English Association, and if it is upheld the match will have to be replayed at Liverpool.

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LIVERPOOL v. BARNSELY ST. PETER'S.

These clubs met on the ground of the latter on Saturday to fight out their tie. As Liverpool were the first senior League club to visit the Barnsley ground great interest was centred in the game by all the surrounding districts, and fully 5000 spectators lined the ropes, in spite of the wretched weather, snow and sleet falling at intervals, while the atmosphere was biting cold. A. Hannah was the only notable absentee on the Liverpool side, whilst Vost superseded Smith of the home team, the players being—Liverpool: M. M'Queen, goal; Curran and D. M'Lean, backs; M'Cartney, M'Que, and J. M'Lean, half-backs; M'Vean, Ross, Bradshaw, D. Hannah, and Drummond, forwards. Barnsley St. Peter's: Greaves, goal; Coupe and Nixon, backs; Kestch, Hey, and Black, half-backs; Cutts, Bairsto, Vost, Thompson, and Partridge, forwards. The home team having won the toss, played down hill, and at once the play veered towards M'Queen, but Curran interposed and staved off the rush, and M'Vean missed taking up the pass. Heavy kicking was the order of the day, the ball travelling from half-backs to half-backs with regular persistency. Two free kicks in succession to Barnsley raised looks of amazement upon the faces of the Liverpoolians, as first M'Cartney and then J. M'Lean were penalised for foul throwing. No danger to the visitors followed, however, except that Bairsto obtained a fruitless corner. J. Ross was then put in possession of a clear field by M'Que, but although he outpaced his opponents he finished very badly. Even play followed for a little time till Vost headed a sharp attack, in which M'Queen handled and threw clear. Immediately following J. M'Lean was again subjected to a harsh decision on the part of the referee for a throw in, the same player being compelled to give a corner to save further disaster. Liverpool then got rather the best of the argument, but made terribly bad attempts to score, although the referee allowed them to take a foul close in goal four times over.

Some strong forward kicking by Kestch and Nixon caused several anxious moments to Liverpool, but D. M'Lean and M'Que between them removed the scene of operation, and a really good piece of combination between Hannah, Bradshaw, and Ross was spoiled by the latter's over-anxiety. Supported by M'Que, Drummond dashed along the wing, and by a timely pass opened up a splendid chance for Hannah, who carried the ball right to the goal mouth, but wound up with an awful miss. This non-success rather stirred up the visitors, and the play was almost confined to the home circle, relief being only found by a free kick, the Anfield team being sent past the post. Partridge was next pulled up for offside, and upon M'Cartney placing the ball to M'Vean, he and Ross hustled it past Black, and M'Vean getting in position scored for Liverpool, after about 20 minutes' play. The blue and white brigade, after this success, became more united, and for a spell the home team were thoroughly overplayed, but although there was a visible improvement noticed, the shooting was not attended to as it should have been, and several chances were allowed to slip. As half-time arrived the home team had broken away in characteristic fashion, and were in close proximity to M'Queen, who, however, was not called upon. Having now the slope, the match was reckoned a good thing for Liverpool, and M'Vean and Ross were soon in evidence with some dashing work and capital centre, which Drummond just failed to utilise by the nearest shave. For fully a quarter of an hour Liverpool were continually on the aggressive, a sharp attack and pressure being followed by another subsequent assault in quick succession, Greaves having to handle a hot one from M'Vean. Vost then again led his men in spirited fashion, and sending out to his left wing Partridge brought the ball into nice position, and Black missed scoring from his colleague's pass by inches only. Drummond next followed with an offside goal, after

which the home team livened up considerably, and the exchanges became more even than hitherto. Eight minutes off time the Barnsley forwards came with a strong rush, and Vost equalised amidst a great uproar. Nothing further having been added, full time arrived with the game 1 goal each. The captains having again tossed up for choice of ends, the players commenced to play an extra half-hour, and in the last quarter Ross received a pass from the left wing and put on the winning point, the final result being 2 goals to 1 in favour of Liverpool. The Barnsley executive laid a protest against the extra time being played at all, and the matter will come before the council on Wednesday next.

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The Liverpool team cannot take much credit to themselves for their performance on Saturday. Their efforts were always of a disjointed character, and never approached anything of first-class style. Even when it is remembered that the Barnsley St. Peter's administered the quietus to Worksop, who had previously defeated Grimsby, and in addition hold a very strong reputation for impregnable home play, few, if any, of Anfield's supporters had the slightest misgiving as to Liverpool's capability to enter the second round. They will do so, certainly, now, as even in the case of the protest (aid by the Barnsley committee against extra time being played) being upheld, the replayed match should prove an easy win for the Liverpoolians, who will then have the advantage of playing at home. But, without doubt, the whole exhibition of the First Leaguers being so poor, and requiring finish, really war-

anted the low opinion frequently expressed of them by the spectators. So feebly did the forwards combine, and so stingless was their final attempt, that Greaves had only two really decent shots to negotiate during the whole progress of the game. In fact, neither goalkeeper had much to do, the defence on either side being far in advance of the attack, and the game can be compared with many that Liverpool played last year in the second division, when first-class forward play was great rarity. The ground has a few peculiarities, resembling, on first appearance, the enclosures of West Bromwich Albion and Smallheath, but the insipid play of Liverpool cannot be attributed to that item. The whole matter lay principally in the fact that the Liverpool team, to a man, did not enter into the game with sufficient determination, while they sadly overestimated their own powers, after scoring the first goal, which took place within 25 minutes of the start. It seemed then as though Liverpool had about weighed up their opponents, and were likely to carry all before them, but by adopting a shilly-shally, dilly-dallying mode of procedure they were soon made cognisant of the grand staying powers and evident determination of the home lot to fight to the bitter end, and although the ball was much oftener in the home quarters than anywhere else, still when the Saints got a chance they were invariably dangerous and difficult to shake off. It is just such a team as Barnsley, who are as full of fire and go when the play ceases as when they started, and who throughout are ardent triers, who upset many better reputed clubs than themselves, and had they done the trick on Saturday no one who saw the game would have been in the least surprised. M'Queen had a very awkward shot to deal with in each half, and as he cleared them under difficulty he may be said to be exonerated from any blame so far as the result goes. M'Lean opened all right, but got too confident and easy-going afterwards, and unfortunately allowed himself to slip back into his old fault of getting among the forwards. This is regrettable, as he has shown signs of great improvement of late. Curran was about the only one to shine with brilliance, and the steady and clean, yet vigorous kicking of this player was a treat to witness. Owing to the slackness of the forwards, the general play of the half-backs suffered deterioration, but their work was always good, if not up to its usual high standard, while the meteoric flashes of the home forwards at certain intervals kept M'Que and his aides de camp ever on the alert for contingencies. Never did the forwards shape like playing the game properly. Frequently did they carry it into the enemy's camp by a series of very pretty and accurate passes, but when the final touch was required it seemed as though each player had completely lost his head, and kicked at random. Hannah, Ross, and Bradshaw each had certain goals had the ball been sent straight. M'Vean did very well considering the forward play as a whole, as also did Drummond, whose fast dashes down the wing often completely changed the

aspect of the game, but with the centre trio at fault the outside wing men were not given such good opportunities as usual, while it must be remembered that the play of the full-backs of St. Peter's team, which was of a very high order, also had more than a little to do with the checking of the visiting forwards. Commenting upon the home team, who throughout are a tall and well-built lot, too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the defence. To them alone stands the credit of making a draw with the League team. Greaves in goal was very clever with high shots, but the two occasions where he was beaten were by low fast shots, which he made but a half-hearted attempt to repulse. Nixon, the left full-back, is good enough for any First League team, if Saturday's display is to be taken as a criterion. He was everywhere—one moment assisting his halves, and the next heading out of goal, and being fast and a sure kick he scored heavily off the Liverpool forwards. Coupe also put in some capital work, which was of the steady plodding kind, and was very useful at times. The whole of the half-backs are excellent for a team of such calibre. Keech, the right half, was as ubiquitous as Holt at his best, whilst both Hey and Black were veritable thorns in the sides of all opponents. None of their forwards are of much account, except Vost, the centre, who was always prepared for any opportunity, and invariably fell back at any emergency. Partridge at outside left at times did some clever passing with Thompson, and the goal which Vost scored came from some work from the above-named pair. After the match, the Barnsley Committee laid a written protest with the referee against the legitimacy of the extra time, which was allowed to be played by him under a misapprehension. The rule states that extra time must only be played by the mutual consent of both teams, the referee having no voice in the matter, and as it was only arranged between the respective captains, acting on their own responsibility at the end of the game, the Barnsley committee repudiate their captain's action, and have sent in their protest in proper form, which will be brought before the council next Wednesday. Next Saturday will be the match of the season. Blackburn Rovers have always been great favourites in Liverpool since the early days, and their visit on Saturday to Anfield to compete in the second round of the Lancashire Cup with the Liverpool Club is bound to create a large amount of interest. Last year the Rovers succeeded in throwing the Liverpool club out of the same competition, after an intensely exciting game, by 4 goals to 3, but as that match took place at Blackburn it is surmised, now that the venue is changed, a different result may follow.