

MACCLESFIELD FC FIRST MATCH AT THE MOSS ROSE

MACCLESFIELD V HYDE ON 12 SEPTEMBER 1891

This report was published in the Alderley & Wilmslow Advertiser on Friday 18 September 1891. It is typical of the reporting of the day containing terms not used in modern-day reporting and a lack of a full report for the second half. Match reports often included 'Notes on the Game' following the match report to include team and player performances.

An additional note has been added at the end of this article extracted from The Macclesfield Courier & Herald relating to the new ground.

On Saturday, in beautiful weather, the temperature being at almost boiling-point, these two teams met at the Moss Rose ground, Macclesfield. The teams faced each other as announced.

Macclesfield: Kent, goal ; Braddock and Gaskell, backs ; Nolan, Birchenall, Bolton, half-backs; Bullock, Hall, Wheeldon, Heath, Lea.

Hyde: F. Smith, goal; Best, T. Smith, backs; Coulsen, Edwards, Duncan, half-backs; Wylde, Lillie, Bladen, Heywood, Birch, half-backs.

About 2500 spectators assembled, a sure proof that the Moss Rose ground is as popular as ever was the Victoria ground.

Macclesfield won the toss, and Bladen kicked off with the sun in the visitors' faces, and Birchenall returned the ball and passed to Bolton, the leather travelling into touch. From the throw-in Wheeldon got possession, and made a rapid transfer, centering beautifully, but Smith caught the ball after it had travelled beyond the goal line. Macclesfield continued to press, another goal-kick resulting. Give and take play followed in the Hyde half, but Birch managed to get the ball beyond the centre line and centred to Bladen. Birchenall intervened and Nolan got possession, ball again going into touch, and from the throw in Bladen centred, and a little nice play from Bladen spoiled their endeavours, and a foul against the homesters for hands off Birchenall was of little use, for Bullock got possession and carried the leather into the Hyde territory, whence it was once again forwarded to the Macclesfield quarters, Gaskell relieving with a huge kick. The Hyde forwards were conspicuous with a little neat passing. An appeal against Lillie for off-side was successful. Bullock made a fine dodgy run, and forced Best to kick into touch. Play was quickly transferred to home quarters, but Gaskell returned in spite of heavy pressure. Macclesfield could not get through for some time, but finally from a scrimmage in the goal mouth Hall notched a point amid applause.

After a half-hour's play a kick by Duncan gave Wheeldon a chance, but he was robbed, a goal kick resulting. Hall ran well up, putting a stinger in, Smith fisting out, and operations were then transferred, Heywood forcing a corner. The Macclesfield forwards were prominent with neat passing on the left, and a corner resulted, which was not utilised. The ball was then brought rapidly to mid-field, and being again sent behind, the play was transferred to the Macclesfield end, where Kent stopped. Some nice play by Hyde took the ball again to Macclesfield quarters, where the leather went over. A corner to Hyde followed and from the kick Kent saved on the ground, the

leather going over. Some fine play by Hyde and three of the Macclesfield men was then seen. Mulling the homesters gave Birch an easy chance which he utilised. Heath and Wheeldon, after clear passing, put in a shot which resulted in Smith saving magnificently. Shortly afterwards Bullock put in a long shot, which went wide. The left wing, much pressed by the Hyde back, at last got free, but wild shooting caused the ball again to go over. Hyde got free from the goal kick, when the right wing place the home goal in danger, Gaskell finely relieving. A fine run on the home left proved dangerous, but the ball did not go through, a corner resulting, from which nice play caused some excitement, the ball striking the crossbar and bouncing over. Still the homesters tried to get the leather up, but a deliberate trip of Heath by Smith gave a free kick under the new rules, a goal being scored by Bolton. Half time score:- Macclesfield 2 goals, Hyde 1 goal.

EXCITING FINISH !

There was an exciting finish to this match. Macclesfield had the advantage in playing, from end to end, Result:-

Macclesfield ... 6 Hyde ... 1

NOTES ON THE GAME.

Home once more! Well, I suppose it will be my home now, half the Saturdays of the next eight months and a few other days, as well. I got cooped up in a box labelled in big red letters "Press Box." Don't suppose from that Mr Editor that I was pressed for room. The "Press Box" was not a "pressure box." That's a pun, if you only see it. The Silk lads played up at least in the latter half of the game. But only fancy what a day it was. During summer, so-called, we have been having such weather as must have made the cricketer crazy, and now, when the cricket season is over and football begins, we have weather such as a cricketer expects and as a footballer can very well do without.

When the game began the players set to work in earnest, but they had a little bit of sense after all, for they cooled down a bit as they warmed up after about five minutes' play.

They started well, but they soon got fagged, and in five minutes they had not a dry thing on. Playing in their silks they soon had them wringing wet, and shortly afterwards made up for their early enthusiasm by playing any way, and both teams showed a looseness which on a cool day would have been most reprehensible, but which on Saturday was quite excusable, the play up to half time being anything but brilliant.

Now don't think I am complaining, for I am quite sure that I should have done the same had I been in the place of the players. You don't expect to be melted when playing football.

From the interval the "Silk Lads" played with the sun shining full in their faces, but yet they seemed determined to make their presence felt, and for a good portion of this half play was kept in the Hyde quarters. It would be impossible to speak too highly of the brilliant display of the forward play which was at times a great treat, the two H.'s especially. Hall's kicking was wonderful, and the way in which he kicked the ball over his head was marvellous. Heath was a heat in himself, and without doubt is one of the most improved members of the team. But it must not be supposed that the other players played badly. Oh, no! nothing of the kind. The ball was taken almost the length of the ground with grand passing, and Heath scored the fifth goal, which was a beauty. That goal will run in

my head for many a week. I am generally one of the most phlegmatic of people, but I actually clapped. Wasn't there a shout, too?

The halves played a fine game, and there was little to choose in whole trio, but if anyone were specially prominent Bolton was most certainly the man, Gaskell at back was a champion, and too much praise cannot be accorded to him for his splendid defensive ability. Braddock and Kent were both shining lights, but still not quite so prominent as their colleagues. However, it may be that they had not quite the same opportunities.

The following is a note made in The Macclesfield Courier & Herald as an addendum to the match report.

In local football circles Saturday last was looked forward to with some degree of interest, not only from the fact that it was the first home match of the season, but in regard to the speculations which had been rife for some time respecting the success or otherwise of the game, in consequence of the change of venue from Victoria-road ground to the Moss Rose ground.

For some considerable time prior to the start one stream of spectators was to be seen making their way to the field of battle, and there was one continuous crush, notwithstanding the sweltering heat of the afternoon, to gain admission through the turnstiles. This is one of the great inconveniences which ought to be remedied ere long, so as to ensure more comfort in gaining admission.

The arrangements for entrance at Victoria-road dispensed in a great measure with the discomfort experienced by the spectators on Saturday, and the committee will only be consulting their own financial success as well as the public convenience by at once making an alteration.

Amongst the visitors on the reserve ground were to be seen a number of our public men, who from the first have taken an interest in the winter pastime.

As to the ground itself there can but be one opinion - that it is better fitted for the game than the one in Victoria-road, and on Saturday it presented a somewhat picturesque appearance. On the east side is a small plantation which shelters the reserve ground from the east winds, and on this part of the grounds also is a rustic arbour which, however, requires a coat of paint before it is fit for use: A number of trees and shrubs in various parts of the grounds and a knoll at the south end, which on Saturday was crowded with onlookers, together with the fine range of hills to the east, make it altogether most attractive.