

Cuts—and a Point—on the Bexley Sand Patch

CAMBRIDGE UNITED did well to capture a Southern League point at Bexley on Saturday. To earn their draw they not only had to suppress a confident home side but also overcome the Welling pitch.

It is probably the worst playing area in the Southern League and Bexley must be the only professional club in the country who are not playing on grass. Instead the pitch is clinker ash covered thirty with sand.

Great Goal

In spite of his misfortune, Gibson had a fine game and capped his performance with a great goal. He thoroughly justified his manager's faith in him and after the game Roy Kirk must have wished that some of the centre-forwards critics had been at Bexley to see him play.



When a player fall over he runs the risk of cuts from the clinker. Indeed, this was the case with the United players. Several did fall and during and after the game manager Roy Kirk used five rolls of plaster to cover his players' injuries. Worst hit was centre-forward Jimmy Gibson who twice had to leave the field for attention to a vicious cut on his knee.

With inside-forwards Atkinson and McVittie working hard and Devine and Platt being brought into the game, the line began to click and several chances were created, but Jimmy Gibson had wretched luck with several of his goal attempts. Twice he beat the goalkeeper only to see his shots kicked off the line.

Dai Jones had the same initial trouble against his wing, but he also picked up later in the game. Behind everyone Andy Smith displayed a safe pair of hands and could not be faulted with either goal.

Tough Nutt

In the early stages Bill Kelly had trouble stopping Terry Gill, but as the game wore on the

United skipper held the centre-forward. Brian Boggis also had difficulty preventing Gordon Nutt, the former Arsenal and Cardiff winger, come past him. But he stuck to his task manfully and in the second half Nutt only got away twice.

United tried hard, but they could not find the net, despite their midfield superiority. They did everything but increase their lead and just when it was beginning to look as though their two goals would be enough to win both points Bexley squashed Nutt, for only the second time in the half, escaped from Boggis and centred for Gill to head home the equaliser.

Equaliser

After this goal the visitors were much more confident and after the interval the U's gained complete control. They took the lead in the 51st minute when McVittie was on hand to flick the ball into the net after Tony Smith failed to hold a Scurr shot.

This set-back has, City hope, only temporarily stopped the club's recent progress for they have three chances of gaining points this week. Tomorrow evening they play Dartford at Millon Road and Weymouth are the visitors on Thursday evening. City travel to Dartford next Saturday. Thoughts of losing certainly were not in evidence as Saturday's game started and the U's went well on top and they took the lead in fine style in only the eleventh minute. Brian Moore cleverly chipped the ball over Gill's head for Norman Blanche standing by the far post to nod home.

But then came a series of misses through fiddling as players tried to set the ball on to their "good" foot and gradually Guildford came more into the picture.

Right winger Barrett missed a real sitter in front of City's goal and when the ball was cleared, in the next minute it went in. Barrett on the other flank. The winger's cross was deflected off Brendan McNally and inside left Burton was placed on-side and he had an easy task to score.

No Chance

Guildford became more confident as the period wore on and this was City's worst stage of the game. It became gradually difficult for the wing halves to control the mid-field play and it came as no surprise when the home side went into the lead with only a minute left to play. Barrett allowed to cross the ball and centre forward Hasty nodded to the feet of Barrett, who had moved into the middle. Bill Health, in City's goal, had no chance.

But then came the City pressure, and it was almost non-stop. Moore, often a match winner had no luck, however, as his shots were blocked or faked away and Alan Spears, too, missed only fractionally on one occasion.

Unmarked

The home side defended stubbornly and deserve some credit, and, as so often happens when a side takes this pattern, the other side scored a simple goal. McNally tackled and the ball ran clean to the net. Sillitt. He kicked across field and found Bennett completely unmarked in front of goal with five minutes play left.

City: Heath; Carroll, McNally; Moyle, Craig, Gregory, Warboys; Spears, Blanche, Moore, Bircumshaw.

Southern League PREMIER DIVISION

Club	P	D	F	A	P
Yeovil Town	39	27	5	7	89
Chelmsford City	40	25	6	9	90
Bath	39	19	9	11	82
Romford	39	19	9	11	82
Weymouth	38	20	8	12	85
Hastings Utd.	40	14	7	2	80
Bedford Town	40	18	13	15	64
Cambridge Utd.	40	17	15	17	69
Salisbury Town	39	18	15	17	67
Worcester City	40	12	14	15	68
Dartford	40	11	14	14	65
Rugby Town	40	14	8	15	84
Nuneaton Bor.	40	14	8	15	79
Bexley	40	14	8	15	79
Wellington Town	39	12	8	19	78
Margate	38	10	11	17	58
Hereford Utd.	40	12	6	22	60
Merryleigh	39	11	6	22	62
Kettering Town	40	12	25	49	24
Hinckley Ath.	40	6	28	47	28

EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE

Sudbury Town 1, Soham Town Rangers.
Norwich City "A" 1, Newmarket Town 2 (D'Arcy, Adams).
Ely City 1 (Youngs), March Town United 0.
PETERBOROUGH LEAGUE
Cambridge United Reserves 2 (Dunne, Whitmore), Sutton Bridge 4.
Haddenham Rovers 4, Newmarket Town Reserves 1.
Parson Drove 3, Chatteris Town 1.
Peterborough "A" 1, Exning United 1.

RUGBY

Cambridge 31, Chelmsford 0.
Chelmsford "A" 0, Cambridge Wanderers 13.
Cambridge Vanguards 20, Chelmsford Extra "A" 6.
Shelford 6, Old Easthamians 8.
Norwich Lions 8, Shelford Nomads 0.
Shelford "A" 6, Norwich "A" 33.
Old Cantabs 14, Snyland 3.
Old Cantabs Brigands 3, Brentwood II 6.
Brentwood II 11, Old Cantabs II 5.
Suffolk Colts 3, Cambridgeshire Juniors 21.

MISSING PENALTY

Henry's only other mistake was when he slipped in the first half, but Carter cleared the loose ball; and, in a last minute break away by Sudbury, when he seized Lock to stop a certain goal, he made his first penalty miss for Sudbury when he hit the bar.

Carter was in brilliant form for Soham against leading E.C. scorer Wane, and he was also supported by Cox and Nixon. Sudbury were also well served by defence, with Wade making some fine saves. When the Range made an all out rally Green had a chance of equalising, but tried to set the ball under control instead of shooting first time. Grainger put a terrific shot on the bar and just failed to contact the speedy rebound.

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Jimmy Gibson

His critics should have seen him.



Norwich Scouts Newmarket Full-Back

Norwich "A" 1, Newmarket 2 were present, including chief scout and ex-player Reg Poulkes. They were there mainly to watch two new Norwich players, Brown and Lynn, and Newmarket's right-back Roger Pawley, who was expecting a trial with the Norwich combination side.

Newmarket had to make three late changes. Goalkeeper Derek Haylock, injured his foot at work. player-manager Vince Donnelly had a pulled leg muscle, and winger Eddie Robinson was not available.

The Jockeys, however, were fortunate to obtain the services of amateur 'keeper David Cobb, who, though with Charlton, is still on Newmarket's books, and he particularly caught the eye with his agility and perfect handling.

Young U's Lethargy Cost Them Points

Cambridge United Reserves 2, Sutton Bridge 4. To the sentimentalist it was a pity that the young United team should have lost their last home game in the Peterborough League, and the result was all the more unexpected to the larger than usual crowd against Sutton Bridge, who lie in a lowly position in the table.

Nevertheless, one must agree that Sutton Bridge were, on the day, a much better side than they are reputed to have been during the rest of the season.

This does not excuse the home side for their presentation of two points to their visitors. At first it looked just a question of how many goals the Young U's would score and how long it would take to score them.

In the 18th minute the first goal came when Sampson chipped the ball across from the left to Whitmore who presented Dunne with a perfect pass. The inside left volleyed the ball into the net for as good a goal as one hopes to see.

The United's lead was short-lived however, for Sutton Bridge attacked and forced a corner to the right. Tyler placed the kick across the face of the goal and centre-half Burton crashed it home.

THE SATURDAY SUMMARY

Southern League
Bexley United 2, Cambridge United 2 (Gibson, McVittie), Attendance 1,333.
Guildford City 3, Cambridge City 1 (Blanche), Attendance 1,962.
Yeovil Town 3, Margate 0.
Romford 0, Hereford United 3.
Rugby Town 1, Wisbech 1.
Hinckley Athletic 3, Wellington 1.
Dartford 1, Worcester City 0.
Bedford Town 1, Merryleigh 0.

Metropolitan League
Nuneaton 0, Chelmsford City 1.
Metropolitan League
Romford Reserves 5, St. Neots Town 1.

THIS WAS JUST NOT CITY'S DAY

ALTHOUGH the scoreline shows a difference of two goals in this result, Cambridge City could definitely count themselves unlucky in this Southern League match against Guildford at Joseph Road on Saturday.

The first piece of misfortune came after they had taken the lead when a City defender deflected the ball to place a home forward on-side and the equaliser. Guildford went ahead seconds before the interval and in the second half City had all the play and made desperate efforts to make up the leeway.

This momentary hit, defenders were hit, goalkeeper Gill made some magnificent saves, chances were wasted and the ball just would not go into the net.

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But then came a series of misses through fiddling as players tried to set the ball on to their "good" foot and gradually Guildford came more into the picture. Right winger Barrett missed a real sitter in front of City's goal and when the ball was cleared, in the next minute it went in. Barrett on the other flank. The winger's cross was deflected off Brendan McNally and inside left Burton was placed on-side and he had an easy task to score.

WORTH TWO POINTS

City were worth both points but should have won more easily. After an even first half, in which both sets of forwards missed chances, they created several clear-cut opportunities only to fade away badly when it came to finishing.

Best of the openings which went to March was that in which Dickinson three yards out and the Ely defence beaten, completely miskicked. The March scorers, Jimmy Butler and Clark were given little opportunity to shine by Tony Willson and E.S. Simpson.

Free Kick Wins Game

Sudbury 1, Soham 2. 0. Although in their last game which they failed to get the draw which would have given them an average of a point a match in the first season of E.C.L. football, Soham Town Rangers went close to doing so at Sudbury.

They established a reputation for being easily the best of the newcomers, and better than some of the older members.

Except for a scrappy patch midway through the second half, the game was keenly contested, and Soham were unlucky not to take the lead when Freewell rattled the bar. They conceded the only goal just afterwards. Soham formed wall to a free-kick just outside the area but were moved back again had not resettled formation when Ryan shot hard and low just inside a post with Henry obviously unsighted.

Henry's only other mistake was when he slipped in the first half, but Carter cleared the loose ball; and, in a last minute break away by Sudbury, when he seized Lock to stop a certain goal, he made his first penalty miss for Sudbury when he hit the bar.

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CAMBRIDGE



BRIAN MOORE
Out of luck.

Ely Leave it Late to Net Winner

Ely City 1, March Town 0.
MATCHES between Ely City and March Town always provide four struggles. Saturday Eastern Counties League clash of Paradise ground was no exception but Ely made hard work of completing a 'double,' and it was not until 15 minutes from time that leading scorer Peter Youngs got the winner.

Credit young Brian Cox with having a hand in the goal—although he did not touch the ball. As a high pass went into the March goalmouth centre-half Archie Tinkler shaped as if to leave it to a goalkeeper named Valentine, who was coming out to meet it. But Cox put in such a determined challenge the Tinkler was forced to change his mind. He could only head the ball as far as Young's standing 12 yards out. The City leader promptly lobbed it back, an although Valentine made a plucky attempt to intercept he could only help it on further.

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