

An own goal robbed the City of a point

Despite having most of a game that never really rose to any great heights, Cambridge City let two Southern League points escape at Milton Road on Saturday when Nuneaton scored twice within a couple of minutes ten minutes after the interval.

City never seemed to be in one real bother until Nuneaton scored a lucky goal via inside right Alec Moyse's back in the fifth minute. A chip inside by the visitors' skipper Lovatt hit the City man, back helping his defence, and to all local supporters' horror rebounded into an empty net as keeper Bill Heath had moved across to cover.

Thoroughly disheartened, City were at sixes and sevens a minute later when Wiggin, Nuneaton's leader of the attack, found himself unmarked and allowed to shoot

City 1, Nuneaton 2.
(Attendance 2,783).

home a terrific shot with his left foot that completely beat Heath. More shots like this when he started the season with Cambridge United and no doubt Wiggin would never have left the Abbey Stadium. It was disappointing that City then began to throw everything into the game but could only pull back one goal and it took a wing half, Reg Pearce, to score. He shot first time in the 64th minute and Nuneaton's keeper had no chance although the right back, Thompson, got a foot to it as it crossed the line.

From then on it was nearly all City, but the forwards were not having a happy time and they probably would not have scored if the game had been extended to extra time. There were near misses and some bloomers, but the general trend showed that the Nuneaton

goal was not to be penetrated again.

This result gave Nuneaton the "double" over City this season for they won 3-1 in the Midlands last October. They were a good side, especially in defence, but City must be gloomy today that bonus money slipped away from them. This was City's first defeat in the League since Bedford won by the odd goal of three at Milton Road on January 2.

In 13th place

They have now dropped to 13th place in the Premier Division's table and have the flat looking record of 28 points from 23 games; they have won ten and lost ten and have scored 45 goals and conceded 44.

If they are to improve their position then they will have to take their chances. Saturday's play saw them in position on several occasions, but even with the Nuneaton defence in a panic there was no-one there to be steady enough to find a chink in the sometimes rusty armour.

Centre forward Eddie Bailham found on this occasion that he could not do it all himself and Brian Hart, who was Nuneaton's top scorer before being transferred to City in January, made many neat touches but rarely had the chance to shoot at goal. Moyse, the other inside man, worked like a Trojan, but again there was no luck.

Using pressure for almost the whole of the last half hour, City eventually became desperate and pivot Jack McGugan had his name taken when he came up to help his attack but brought down a full back instead.

It was not a game to rave about and it will hardly be remembered by the middle of the month.

caretaker manager, Tommy Dawson said afterwards that he would not make any changes for tomorrow night's game with King's Lynn at Milton Road (kick-off 7.15) in the Eastern Floodlight League.

Southern League

Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Weymouth	30	18	5	7	76	35	41
Graysford City	28	12	4	12	32	30	37
Chelmsford	31	15	7	9	61	53	37
Worcester	29	16	3	10	68	39	35
Cambridge	32	15	8	11	57	43	34
Bedford	28	13	4	11	30	35	34
Yeovil Town	27	10	12	5	44	20	32
Dartford	25	13	6	6	47	36	32
Nuneaton	27	13	3	9	49	35	32
Margate	29	12	6	11	66	39	30
Romford	31	13	4	14	46	35	30
King's Lynn	26	9	11	10	44	25	28
Cambridge City	28	10	8	10	45	44	28
Hastings Utd.	30	9	10	11	45	34	28
Rugby	31	11	5	15	51	48	27
Bexley	27	12	2	13	52	45	26
Tonbridge	30	8	10	12	51	56	26
Cheltenham	29	9	12	11	47	36	26
Folkestone	28	9	7	12	46	60	25
Wellington	30	7	8	15	44	56	22
Wishach Town	30	10	7	10	40	40	21
Bath City	29	7	3	19	34	58	17

Ill-fated United were so unlucky

Wellington Town 3, Cambridge United 2.

(Attendance 1,741).

Cambridge United will play far worse and yet still win more matches in comparison to the excellent, but ill-fated performance they gave on the Buck's Head Ground at Wellington on Saturday.

The U's have been going through a rather unsettled period in the past few weeks, but in this particular Southern League game their display was of the calibre that should dispel any doubts as to their ability, and they can count themselves desperately unlucky to have travelled pointless back from the Midlands.

Nothing went right for the United, while their opponents took full profit from a fortunate run of the ball. Not only were the Cambridge side fighting away from home against a side that was on the rebound from a succession of poor results, but they had to combat a series of what can only be described as "strange decisions" by the referee.

After opening the game in powerful style with a neatly taken goal from the right-sided Billy Day, following some industrious work from Gerald Graham and Peter Hobbs, United lost this early advantage in the 13th minute, when Wellington equalised through what looked suspiciously like an offside position.

Deteriorated

Inside-left Campbell chipped a long ball over the heads of the United defence to his inside partner Cullen—Wellington's new signing from Derby County—who appeared well offside, but the referee allowed him to carry through and beat Slack from just inside the box.

At the beginning of the second half there was no hint of the pulsating excitement to come. The first few minutes were quiet enough, but suddenly an "own goal" by United's left back, Dai Jones, sparked off an incident packed remainder of the game.

It was unfortunate for the young Welshman that he should give away this goal at a vital stage of the match, for throughout he had played with remarkable coolness, and had kept a firm rein on the Wellington right winger, ex-England Youth international, Graham French.

As Jones turned the ball back towards the goal Slack moved out for it only to see it trickle knowingly past him into the net. The home team increased their lead when Scurr failed to check Boser, and the winger pushed the ball on to Campbell, who although challenged by two United defenders, went through to beat an advancing Slack with a low drive.

Robbed

United were robbed of a golden opportunity to pull the game out of the fire when the referee ordered a penalty kick awarded to the visitors to be retaken. After Hobbs had cracked home a splendid shot, the official said that

Barr had moved into the area—this was denied after the match by the ex-Coventry player—and Hobbs had to try again. This time, much to Wellington's relief, the ball bounced off the cross bar and was hastily cleared.

Barr managed to salvage a vestige of United's pride when he ran through with five minutes to go, and after Knight, the Wellington keeper had saved his first effort, picked up the rebound and rounded the goalkeeper to slip home an easy shot.

'Booked'

In the closing stages Dai Jones had his name taken for arguing over a decision, and French—who at one time almost signed for Chelsea for a £20,000 fee—was also "booked" after an incident involving a linesman.

All the United team played well, and they displayed moments of attractive, purposeful football. Wellington were always dangerous when they broke away.

It was good to see Dennis Randall challenge hard for the ball at centre forward. On this form he should be able to stake a claim for a regular first team spot as leader of the attack.

Reserves well and truly beaten

Metropolitan Police 3, Cambridge City Reserves 1.

Cambridge City Reserves slid closer to lowly Metropolitan Police through this Metropolitan League defeat at Imber Court on Saturday.

Neither can there be any argument as to which side were the better team. Apart from the opening minutes and a surprising pull-back halfway through the second half, City Res. were always playing second fiddle to the home side for whom inside-forwards, Burrow and Edmonds, were the destructors in chief.

The swaying factor was the amount of room given to the wandering, elusive policemen in midfield. One brilliant 90 second spell from Burrow changed the complexion of the game. He forced right-back Matthews to clear on the line, sent an angled shot via Cain's finger tip against the bar and then stabbed home the first goal.

From then on till well into the second half, City were ground under. Edmonds, following up, netched the second goal from a rebound close in minutes before the interval.

It came as a surprise therefore when City scored next. All danger looked to have passed when Moore, City's most and indeed only threatening forward, was spunted to the corner of the penalty area. But the headstrong Howieson unceremoniously backed the inside-right down to give away an unquestionable penalty.

Despite Devine's conversion of the penalty, the City still proved to be incapable of saving the game.

Centre-forward Fletcher became the last of the police inside trio to score to make certain of the points 15 minutes from the end.

City Reserves face Metropolitan Police in another vital clash this Thursday. Home advantage and more aggressive play from their wing-halves might well sway the issue. If they don't, City Reserves face a tough fight to keep clear of the bottom of the table.



Nuneaton's goalkeeper is hopelessly beaten and can only watch as the visitors' right-back makes a despairing attempt to stop Reg Pearce's shot from entering the net for City's only goal.

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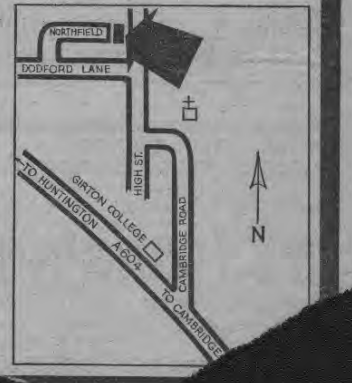
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OIL CENTRAL HEATING

The local Saturday summary

- SOUTHERN LEAGUE**
Cambridge City 1 (Pearce), Nuneaton Borough 2. Attendance 2783.
- Wellington Town 3, Cambridge United 2 (Day, Barr). Attendance 1741.
- Bedford Town 1, Hastings United 1
- METROPOLITAN LEAGUE**
Metropolitan Police 3, Cambridge City Res. 1
- Charlton A. 0, Bedford Town Res 2
- St. Neots 3, Chatham 0
- EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE**
Soham Town Rangers 0, Stowmarket 1
- Gothic 3, March Town 1
- PETERBOROUGH LEAGUE**
Exning 0, Somersham 9
- Huntingdon 1, Ely Res 2
- Haddenham 3, Sutton Bridge 0
- UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Division 1**
Peterborough A. 3, Eynesbury R. 0
- Division 2**
Eynesbury Res 0, Higham Town 5
- Irthingborough 3, St. Neots Res. 2
- SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE**
A.M.L. (Tickford) 3, Royston Tn. 1
- BORDER LEAGUE**
Haverhill Res. 0, Whitton 2
- MERCIA YOUTH LEAGUE**
Cambridge United 7, Bedford Tn 0
- COUNTY INVITATION CUP Semi-final**
Ely City 1, Haverhill Rovers 1
- RUGBY**
Cambridge Univ. 9 pts., Moseley 6
- Old Whitehittians 32 pts., Camk. 3
- Public Sch. Wands, 15 pts., Nmk. 11
- HOCKEY**
Welwyn Gdn. C. 0, Cambridge C. 2
- Cambridge C. II 0, Welwyn G.C. II 2
- Welwyn G.C. III 3, Cam. C. III 1
- Cam. C. IV 3, Welwyn G.C. IV 7
- Welwyn Coll. 0, Cambs. Nomads 0
- TABLE TENNIS**
South-East Midlands League
- Men's Section**
Ely & Dist. 7, Cambridge City 3
- Junior Section**
Ely & Dist. 1, Cambridge City 3