FOOTBALL POST AND NEWS

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# Sharp Blades go down 1-0 to Forest

by TONY PRITCHETT

**A GOAL after 71 minutes from Nottingham Forest inside left John Barnwell—his second of the season—gave the home side the edge over hard-fighting Sheffield United in a stern struggle at the City Ground this afternoon.**

### Attendance 19,480

The pitch had cut up badly and players on both sides found it difficult down the middle.

SHEFFIELD THREAT

It was Sheffield who carried the bigger threat. Their shooting however, remained ill-directed and Tony Wagstaff was the next to put a possible chance well wide of the posts.

Following this Woodward headed off-target from the hard-working and very impressive Mick Jones.

A well-timed tackle by Newton stopped Birchenall as the inside forward strode away. This incident brought Sheffield a warning and from it Hennessey was there to head off the line.

When Forest resumed the offensive Crowe almost matched the first goal, hitting the net support with Hodgkinson beaten.

Just before half time Crowe missed a good chance for the Reds. Although the flag was up for offside, the referee waved the winger on but his shot was poor and Hodgkinson saved.

HALF-TIME:

**NOTTM. FOREST ... 0**
**SHEFFIELD UNITED ... 0**

Forest had two great chances to break the deadlock in the first minute after half-time. First, Wignall centred cleverly and Barnwell let the ball travel through to Addison. The inside forward lifted a good shot neatly but Hodgkinson came out to dive at his feet.

Next, Wignall had a good opening and shot well only for Hodgkinson to make a good save this time and deflect the ball for a corner.

From the scramble Forest might well have beaten the goalkeeper. Crowe's kick was half cleared but two Forest forwards appeared to leave the ball to each other and Mallender eventually headed away.

The Sheffield 'keeper saved his side again a moment later. Crowe won a corner and placed his kick well for Wignall.

The centre forward headed fiercely for goal, but Hodgkinson fist the ball away for another flat kick.

After McKinlay had come close to adding a clearance into his own net Sheffield threatened again when Reece got in a splendid run but Hindley cleared.

GRUMMITT SAVES

All Hodgkinson's brilliance, however, was eclipsed by Grummitt when he made a wonderful save from Tony Wagstaff.

The inside forward took up the position well and shot hard for goal but Grummitt cleverly turned the ball over the bar.

The action switched back to the Sheffield end when Hodgkinson raced to the edge of the penalty area to kick away as Hinton cut in with a challenge.

A good move by Sheffield ended with Reece shooting just past an upright.

Back came Forest and again it was Hodgkinson who denied them a goal. Wignall missed his footing in the heavy going of the penalty area and the keeper was off his line quickly to boot the ball away.

After 71 minutes Forest's endeavour gained its reward in the shape of a good goal by BARNWELL—only his second of the season.

It was Whitefoot, however, who did all the work. his final pass opening up Sheffield's defence. Although Hodgkinson came out to challenge, Barnwell beat him for possession and stroked the ball just inside the post.

Forest should have had another in the next minute when a high cross from the left caught United unprepared but Wignall just failed to make contact a few feet from goal.

SCHEMING WHITEFOOT

Whitefoot, scheming cleverly again, almost caught United napping a second time but Wignall was given offside.

Sheffield came back strongly for an equaliser and Hindley made a good tackle on Woodward as the winger came in. The full back was injured in the incident but was soon able to carry on.

RESULT:

**NOTTM. FOREST ... 1**
**SHEFFIELD UNITED ... 0**

The pitch proved a difficult test for both teams and it was a defensive battle until Whitefoot opened up United's rearguard for Barnwell to score. Sheffield goalkeeper, Alan Hodgkinson had earlier defied Forest with a string of good saves.

Forest left half Jeff Whitefoot, who telephoned the club earlier this morning to report that he was suffering from a cold, was fit after all to take his place in an unchanged Reds' team.

United, however, had two of their most experienced players missing. Inside forward Keith Kettleborough, sold to Newcastle in midweek for £20,000, was replaced by former Nottingham schoolboy Alan Birchenall. Centre half Joe Shaw, suffering from a thigh strain, stood down for the much taller part-timer Dennis Finnegan.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Grummitt

Hindley Newton

Hennessey McKinlay Whitefoot

Crowe Addison Wignall Barnwell Hinton

Reece Jones Woodward

Birchenall Wagstaff, T.

Wagstaff, S. Finnigan Matthewson

Mallender Badger

Hodgkinson

SHEFFIELD UNITED

Substitute for Forest: Moore.

Substitute for Sheffield U.: Barlow.

Referee: R. F. Pritchard (Leicester).

Linesmen: G. J. Thomas (red), R. G. Bayles (yellow).

There were incidents at each end in the first minute of a brisk start. Hennessey neatly put back to Grummitt as Birchenall bustled in and then Matthewson mis-kicked as Hindley centred, allowing the ball to travel on to Hinton.

The left winger managed to get in a shot, but Hodgkinson saved. Hinton threatened again, rattling the side netting after being fed by Barnwell.

One a pitch which was already giving trouble, United began to look the more enterprising. After Hindley had tripped Reece, Finnigan was only just too high with a terrific shot. Then, when Matthewson had opened up Forest's defence, Woodward narrowly failed with a low angled shot.

UNITED PRESS

Although Hodgkinson was brought to a fine save by Wignall, it was Sheffield who first continued to take the eye. A good right wing move ended with Birchenall shooting past the upright through a crowd of players.

Forest improved and Crowe carried the ball across field well before supplying Hinton but Wignall was crowded out as he jumped for the winger's centre.

Whitefoot was next to test Hodgkinson but United's goalkeeper made a capable save.

Forest had a lucky escape in the 21st minute. McKinlay, uncertain about his balance, was easily robbed by Reece and the centre forward supplied Reece with a golden opportunity.

The winger, completely unmarked, should have beaten Grummitt from 15 yards but instead hammered the ball yards off target.

WHITEFOOT'S SHOT

Forest nearly scored when Whitefoot's free kick was tipped away by Hodgkinson, but Crowe, cracking the ball first time, put it over the top.

The game swayed in United's favour as Jones and Reece made more good scoring attempts.

## Verdict on Forest

Conditions at the City Ground this afternoon constituted a stern test of stamina as well as skill. The pitch was soft at the start, but by half time it had cut up down the middle and mistakes from both sides were frequent.

Of the two teams, it was United, with a policy of shoot-on-sight, who looked the more dangerous. Indeed, had Alan Birchenall and Gilbert Reece been more accurate with their finishing, the Reds might have been in trouble.

The game became more and more demanding after the interval as Forest, with Hennessey often in the attacking picture, stepped up the pace. But the Reds were unlucky to find United goalkeeper Hodgkinson in good form and it was he alone who saved his team from falling behind as Forest called the tune.

By the end fatigue had obviously begun to take its toll on many of the players.

## CHARLTON ATH v WOLVES

Wolves dominated early play. Dwyer twice saved from McInnoyle and later held a fine shot from Wagstaff. Charlton and right back Bond saw his cross drive tipped over the bar by Maclaren, when Wolves defended well in Charlton pressure. HALF-TIME: Charlton 0, Wolves 0.

## Stags' new men cost £20,000

**MANSFIELD TOWN have paid a club record fee of around £20,000 to West Bromwich Albion for 23-year-old centre half Bill Williams.**

**He played him at Southend today, along with 22-year-old inside forward Tommy Hitchinson, bought from Sunderland earlier in the week at much the same figure.**

**The Stags have granted the transfer request of winger Albert Scanlon, and he is now Birmingham bound. Inside forward Harry Middleton and full back Colin Toon.**

## Last words on Notts.

AFTER being on the defensive all for long stretches at Rochdale, Notts. County fought their way bravely out of trouble to gain their half-time lead.

The first goal certainly made the referee unpopular with the crowd, and he was barracked to his dressing room at the break.

Seldom has a goal been scored from a more delicate angle than that from which Sheridan shot the second.

Amid a lot of pressure, County's defence invariably remained the soul of composure.

It was again chiefly a defensive battle for Notts. in the second half and they fought with any amount of zeal and spirit, determined to give nothing away.

This was a heartening sight for the 200 or so supporters who made the trip from Nottingham.

It was noteworthy that County did not concede a goal for the third matching running — 270 minutes of football.

## Mansfield comment

MANSFIELD were hardly in this game in the first 45 minutes. Roberts, Southend's new keeper, certainly had an easy start.

Treharne in the Mansfield goal, had a hectic time. Southend's goal in the 25th minute was a disaster. Treharne looked as if he had Birk's centre well controlled and then caught it on his arm to deflect it into the net.

Southend had most of the play but looked out of touch. Their attack sadly missed the punch and brains of their captain, Eddie Firman.

This was a disappointing game. The football was poor and dull.

But Mansfield can be satisfied with Williams, the buy from West Brom. He dominated the middle, was quick to tackle and cool under pressure. He made a firm impression.

# NOTTS. NIP IN FOR 2-0 WIN

by COLIN SLATER

**A FIERCELY-DISPUTED goal, scored by Tony Flower in the 35th minute, sent Notts. County ahead at Rochdale today, and before half-time John Sheridan tightened their grip by netting a second.**

County's progress to their sixth away win of the season, and their third successive victory, was watched by new joint professional adviser Peter Doherty, who was seeing the team for the first time since his appointment.

Rochdale had McQueen, at centre forward, who has been playing as an amateur hitherto.

Notts. had a considerable contingent of supporters in the small crowd.

ROCHDALE

Jones

Sidge Calloway

Sturright Arden Taylor

Beasley Horne Hodgson Jenkins Hart

Edwards Gibson Sheridan

Birmingham Hampton

Smith

NOTTS. COUNTY

Substitutes for Rochdale: Southgate.

Substitutes for County: Campbell.

Referee: H. W. Bond, Northampton.

Rochdale dominated the first quarter-hour, on a soft pitch, which soon began to cut up badly.

Danger man Jenkins created a fine second minute chance. His pass found Bannister who cut in side and beat Smith and Bircumshaw, both caught in two minds, before sprinting into the middle where first Morton and then McQueen completely missed his kick.

As the home side kept up the offensive, Jenkins took a pass from Morton and fired wide; and there were any number of corners to Rochdale.

In 10 minutes Jenkins got in the best shot so far, a low one from the fringe of the penalty area which Smith, diving to his left, turned round the upright.

Notts began to hit back and Still missed a couple of possible openings before Sheridan blazed wide.

DEFENCE OPENED

Then, an immaculate crossfield pass from Still ripped open Rochdale's defence, but Jones confidently fielded Bates's cross.

Notts were awarded a free kick just outside Rochdale's penalty area for a pushing offence on Still. Flower hit the ball hard and low in front of the posts, where it only needed a tap to put it into goal, but the danger was cleared.

Rochdale still had the edge and when they swarmed back again both Sheridan and Moulden gave away free kicks just beyond County's penalty area.

These were beaten off, and the next attack was stopped by Bannister, whose curling shot swerved wide of the far post.

TRANSFORMATION

The whole game underwent a dramatic transformation with two unexpected Notts. goals near half-time.

The first came in 35 minutes—Rochdale maintaining that it should not have been allowed.

Danger for Rochdale arose when Bates picked up a loose ball down the left and as soon as he dribbled past Riley, the linesman's flag was raised.

Play was allowed to continue and the left winger's centre brought a response from Moulden — anxious to score against his old club—whose header was charged down. The ball went to FLOWER who drove it quite splendidly out of Jones' reach.

### Attendance 2,677

The referee adamantly refused to consult a linesman, despite strong Rochdale protests.

Four minutes later Notts. stunned Rochdale with a second goal. Flower had a hand in this, too.

Calloway was penalised for pushing the outside right, who himself took the free kick. Flower tapped the ball to SHERIDAN, who cut into an open space and drove the ball into the far corner of the net from an extremely narrow angle.

This certainly took the light out of Rochdale and Notts. coasted to interval supremacy.

HALF-TIME:

**ROCHDALE ... 0**
**NOTTS. COUNTY ... 2**

A tight dribble by Bates, in which he outwitted three defenders and had a 20-yard shot parried by Jones, was the highlight on the resumption.

A little later Bates smartly dispossessed Calloway and Storf, dropping back, halted his progress towards goal.

A midfield incident between Still and Storf led to Rochdale getting a free kick which caused County any amount of difficulty until Flower brought the ball into his own half.

Immediately, there was another brush between Flower and Calloway, and another free kick to Rochdale, which Hampton beat off.

A forceful run by Shiels again opened Rochdale's defence, but he put the ball behind when Still, in front of the posts was well positioned to score.

Smith pulled down a 35-yard piledriver from Jenkins as the Rochdale captain still tried to inspire his side

A nice Notts. move between Still, Bates and Flower gave Shiels a chance, Jones holding his low shot despite being partially unsighted.

The second half was proving pretty, with Notts., if anything, slightly the more dangerous from fewer openings

A long ball by Still, way back in defence, sent Shiels clear. He raced half the length of the field and might well have added a third goal until Calloway, chasing hard and beating him for speed, got the ball clear.

Shiels fell in the penalty area but there was no response from the referee when he claimed a penalty.

ROCHDALE RALLY

Rochdale flung everything into a late game-saving bid and Moulden and Sheridan were both penalised for fouls

Then McQueen was inadvertently hurt in a midfield clash with Gibson.

Late, Still with a chance of a third goal, failed to hit the ball truly.

Then Smith alone saved Notts. with a great save from Sievwright.

Rochdale forced two corners in the last half minute.

RESULT:

**ROCHDALE ... 0**
**NOTTS. COUNTY ... 2**

MIXING IT

The Nottingham Forest goalkeeper, Grummitt, tangles with Jones, of Sheffield United, and fists away a centre for a corner at the City Ground this afternoon.

# Mansfield go down in poor game

**A MISTAKE by Colin Treharne, recalled to keep goal against Southend United at Roots Hall this afternoon, put Mansfield Town a goal down at half-time. He deflected a long ball from Birks into his own net.**

### Attendance 7,213

It was a scrappy game, with frequent stoppages for petty offences. Southend had more of the play, but missed many chances.

Both teams fielded new players. Southend played goalkeeper Trevor Roberts from Liverpool and left back Graham Birks from Peterborough. But they were without Eddie Firman, down with flu.

Mansfield included Tommy Mitchinson at inside forward from Sunderland and ex-West Bromwich centre half, Bill Williams.

Southend: Roberts; Bonser, Birks; Smith, Tait, Smith; McKenna, Tait, Mitchinson, Hett, Hitchinson, Morris; Cooper, Mansfield: Treharne; Stewart, Dodd; Curtin, Williams, Hockey; Scanlon, Mitchinson, Bentley, Conners.

Both Curtin and Roberts were making their League debut.

A simple free kick by Bentley put Southend on the attack but Morris headed clear. Smith made a fine opening but Treharne beat King in the race for the ball.

Morris robbed Slater and he made through to stop another Southend attack. Southend kept up pressure as Mansfield found it difficult to settle down.

Southend's new goalkeeper was soon brought into action, fielding a free kick from Morris.

Treharne brought off a fine save as King raced through to challenge.

FIRM GRIP

It was all Southend at this point as the half backs keeping a firm grip on the game. Again Treharne saved Mansfield when he took the ball from King's feet.

Smith got through for Southend but lost control of the ball which rolled into touch.

Southend forced two successive corners and Mansfield had an escape when Treharne missed the ball in trying to punch clear. But Hall was on hand to clear the danger.

Still Southend persisted but there was little sting in their attack. Smith dashed through but shot timely wide.

Mansfield were little better. Williams had settled down well at centre half.

WASTED

A series of petty fouls continually interrupted the game and annoyed the crowd. Slack was working hard providing openings for the Southend forwards but they were all wasted.

Southend took the lead after 23 minutes. It was a strange goal. Birks, Southend's new defender, sent in a long centre. TREHARNE came out to intercept the ball and deflected into his own net.

Towards the interval the crowd grew impatient with the poor display of football.

Mitchinson was constantly calling for the ball, but there was little chance to show his paces.

HALF-TIME:

**SOUTHEND UNITED ... 1**
**MANSFIELD TOWN ... 0**

Southend continued their pressure in the second half but there was little danger in their attack.

The game was constantly interrupted by a stream of petty offences. Referee Handley lectured Curtin, the Mansfield left winger.

Smillie and McKinven worked well to break through the Mansfield defence, but Williams was quick to spot the danger and intercepted well to relieve the pressure.

Williams was having a fine debut. He kept King well under control and was extremely calm and cool under pressure. Curry, the Mansfield leader, was working hard but with little effect

Mansfield lacked method in their approach work. The crowd had little entertainment for their money and were constantly voicing their disapproval.

Then the Southend defence got into a tangle But Curry could not reach the ball as it flashed across the Southend goal.

Bentley, the Southend full back moved up to get his attack moving and Treharne did well to save his drive.

Then a snap Mansfield raid almost caught the Southend defence napping and May had to kick wildly behind, conceding a corner.

Curtin got through but drove into the side netting.

RESULT:

**SOUTHEND UNITED ... 1**
**MANSFIELD TOWN ... 0**

## Notts. RFC the masters at Nuneaton

**NOTTS. gave an admirable performance at the Harry Cleaver ground, Nuneaton, today and thoroughly deserved to come home with a victory to their credit. Although at times unsteady in defence, they held their own easily and looked masters all the way.**

Notts. had to make only one change—Bristow replaced Kelly. Nuneaton were at full strength. Skipper Don Maltby returned to the back row after last week's absence and Whittaker was in the centre. John Abercrombie was recalled on the wing.

Nuneaton: Parkes; Stocker, Maltby; Bailey, Hartley; Abercrombie, Barker, Brown, Davies, Hunter; Wright, Hitchiner, Hitchiner, Hitchiner