

London Owls Newsletter

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Super Sunday

Recovered yet? Didn't think so.

The big Sunday Steel City Derby certainly lived up to all the hype with goals, chances, incident and controversy.

Many managers would have panicked when trailing 2-0 at half time to their bitterest rivals, but Gary Megson felt the Owls had been the better team in the first half and didn't panic. He told his players that if they got the next goal they would not lose the game.



So it proved, but the Wednesday faithful packed into the Bramall Lane away end, and back at Hillsborough watching the action on three big screens (the second highest attendance in League One that weekend), had to wait until the 82nd minute for that goal.

Chris O'Grady, who had earlier seen a close range shot saved by Simonsen, pounced in front of the kop to score his first goal for Wednesday. Just four minutes later Gary Madine (who else?) jumped in front of the United goalkeeper to score a famous equaliser.

After the match Danny Wilson's comments can only be described as sour grapes as he bizarrely claimed the final goal should not have stood. He probably should have spent more time looking at the match stats (as helpfully reproduced here) which reveal his team were second best throughout.

The controversy did not end after the match. Later in the week Blades captain Nick Montgomery claimed that Chris Lines had been "disrespectful" in the tunnel after the game, before adding the seemingly "disrespectful" comments: "I don't think he's ever played higher than League One and maybe emotions took over him."

Fortunately, Wednesday now have an experienced manager who defended his player without inflaming the situation. Megson, though refusing to divulge exactly what happened after the game, said: "I know what went on, and it wasn't Chris Lines who did it." He also suggested that Montgomery should check out the Opta stats before criticising an opponent: "Chris Lines had more passes, more shots, more possession. The passes he hit were more accurate than Nick's."

One thing's for certain - the next derby match in February is going to be a tasty affair.

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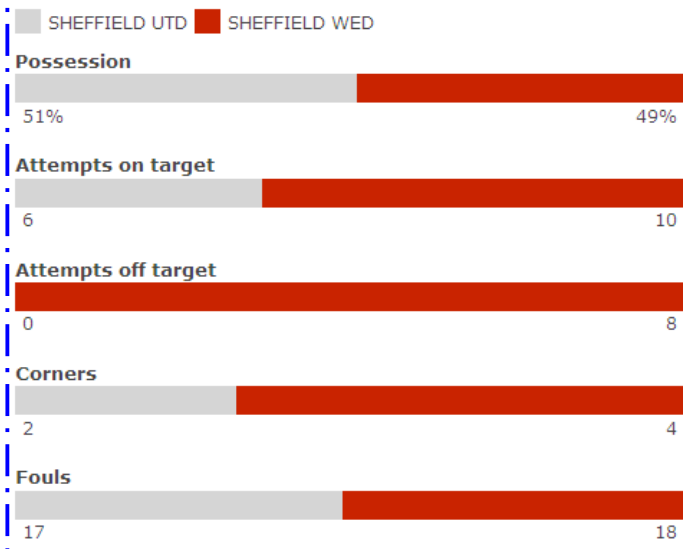
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Follow the Current Squad on Twitter

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Match Facts



Young Machine of the Month

In the last edition of this newsletter we talked up Gary Madine's chances of winning the League One Player of the Month award. Unfortunately Gary was pipped at the post by his former striker partner Neil Mellor. Instead, in a frightening reminder that Madine is still just 21, he was crowned the Young Player of the Month for September.

Madine modestly put his improved form down to the work of his team-mates, noting: "It's hard not to score when you are getting good balls into the box."

Madine has also revealed the now famous "Goal Machine" chant relies on a slight tweaking of his surname. Madine actually rhymes with "wine", but Madine admits he's happy with the change because "I love it when 20,000 fans are singing it."

It was inevitable that Madine would score on Steel City Sunday. After a brace against Levante on the Saturday night Lionel Messi drew level with the Owl's Number 14 on ten league goals for the season, which of course the Goal Machine couldn't take lying down!

Gary is also the latest Owls star to join the Twitter revolution (@garymadine) and after his equaliser on Steel City Sunday he posted: **"What a day! Could hav easily taken 3 points, fans we're immense once again. Well done boys! #nakkered"**.



Renewals

Thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership for the season. If you haven't renewed yet and would like to please email for more info or send a cheque to our PO Box address. Membership rates are **£5** for adults, **£10** for families and **£2** for Students/Over 60s.

Although its clear even the best machines need to be well oiled as on Monday morning Gary posted: **"Getting ready for work, feel like the tin man 2day need sum oil for my legs #stiff"**.

Forthcoming fixtures

As ever we will be travelling up to every home match, and after seven straight league wins who wouldn't want to visit fortress Hillsborough? For home games we depart on the 09.55 and return on the 18.27 and tickets cost £32.00.

No specific trip has been arranged for the game against Wycombe on Saturday, but the match is in good commuting distance from London. Fast trains from Marylebone to High Wycombe are on the hour (these take 22mins) and semi fast trains are at 37 mins past the hour.

Fast trains back from Wycombe are at 48/49 mins past the hour with others at 05, 23, 53/55. Open day returns are still available from The Trainline website for around a tenner.

The stadium is a couple of miles walk/taxi ride from the station – but we will arrange a pub pit stop en route. Keep your eyes on our Facebook event for more details: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/event.php?eid=277032082337568>.

Please email iancol@clara.co.uk if you want any more information on away match travel.

Home Comforts

- This is the Owls' best home start to a season since Harry Catterick's team won their first nine Hillsborough matches of the 1960-61 league campaign. They went on to finish runners-up to double-winning Spurs and earned the tag of the best Owls outfit since World War Two.
- It is also the best home league run from the start of a season in 51 years, it is the longest home winning league sequence during a campaign since 1963-64 when Vic Buckingham's side stitched together eight victories between October and January: they finished sixth in the top flight.

Blue Moons Rising

- Prior to their 6-1 thumping by City, the last time Manchester United lost by five goals at home, was on 1st Feb 1961, as the MASSIVE Sheffield Wednesday handed out a 7-2 pummelling. A brace each from Fantham and Finney and a hat-trick from Ellis completed the rout. It seems on both sides of the Pennines the blues are on the rise.



How silly does she feel about now?

Got a story to tell?

We're always on the lookout for new stories for the newsletter, and in particular are hoping to get match reports from every game from a wide variety of fans.

If you have any contributions no matter how big or small please email mattkelcher@gmail.com or tweet @mattkelcher and they will be included in a future newsletter.

Darts Update

In a come-back reminiscent of their footballing equivalents, the London Owls darts team beat Exeter City 6-5 last Monday, winning the game on the final leg!

Our fixtures for the rest of the year are as follows:

vs Gillingham - Tue 1 Nov
vs Sunderland - Mon 21 Nov
vs Newcastle United - Tues 29 Nov

If you think you've got what it takes with the arrows and you're interested in getting involved in our darts team then email Rory (gallowayrory@hotmail.com) for more info.



Quiz Night

The next round of the Home Counties Football Quiz Night has been scheduled for Thursday 17th November at the Pavillion club in Barnet (just behind the ground, at the cricket club grounds). Start time is 8pm with a finishing time of no later than 10pm. Get in touch if you want to find out more.