

# SEPTEMBER 1987— PENALTIES AT ODD DOWN, AGAIN!

## Odd Down 3-3 Chippenham Town

(after extra time—Odd Down win 5-4 on penalties)

ODD DOWN	
1	Andy Radford
2	Nick Keohane
3	Martin Schwarz
4	Tommy Gilbert
5	Lee Burns
6	Martin Newman
7	Mike N Keen
8	Dean Lye
9	Tony Ridewood
10	Lindsay Jacobs
11	Adi Blay
12	Everton Griffiths (used)

Venue	Combe Hay Lane, Bath
Date	Sunday, 27th September 1987
Competition	Great Mills League Cup—Preliminary Round
Referee	Mr M Godfrey (Bristol)
Attendance	Not recorded

Match Details			
13	1-0	Own Goal	
21	1-1		Greenhalgh (p)
41	1-2		Trowbridge (1)
52	2-2	Ridewood	
108	3-2	Blay	
113	3-3		Trowbridge (2)

CHIPPENHAM TOWN	
1	Julian Shipp
2	Alan Bird
3	Nigel Rose
4	Chris Grigg
5	Richard Legg
6	Pete Fielding
7	Steve Cripps
8	Andy Greenhalgh
9	Mickey Trowbridge
10	Tony Beasley
11	Trevor O'Neil
12	Garvam Samm (used)

ODD DOWN is an area on the outskirts of Bath, and located within a most lovely part of the country. I made my third visit to Combe Hay Lane to watch Great Mills Division 1 side Odd Down entertain Premier Division opponents Chippenham Town at an early stage of the League Cup competition. Great Mills was a sponsored name for the Western League back in the day.

This was some match! End-to-end stuff with six goals shared over 120 minutes and it had to be settled on the day.

Mickey Trowbridge was certainly in the thick of it! Renowned as a prolific striker around these parts back in the day, his match began by inadvertently diverting the ball into his own goal whilst defending an Odd Down corner. It wasn't long though when Beasley was brought down in the box and Greenhalgh levelled the scores, the penalty kick going rather fortuitously under the diving keeper Radford. Just before the break, that man Trowbridge was credited with a goal at the right end, although at the time I wasn't sure why as an 'orbit ball' was pumped into the home side's box and appeared to be punched up in the air by the home keeper and it dropped into goal. A visiting official was indignant that the goal was scored by Trowbridge, so who was I to argue. Half-time: 1-2.

Odd Down soon hit back in the second half when Ridewood struck a superb 25-yard drive that flashed past the keeper and thudded in off the inside of a post. So, all level again and this all-action game had further opportunities but neither team had that ingredient to nudge back in front once more in the ninety-minutes. Full-time: 2-2.

Extra time was a feature of drawn games back then, which isn't so much the case in local cup football now. The entertainment level continued and it was the Division 1 home side who edged ahead. It was three minutes into the second quarter-of-an-hour period when the keeper could only push out a low cross and Blay capitalised by burying a firm and low shot from close range. Chippenham soon levelled it up again and it was a fine individual goal by that man Trowbridge once more. A long ball was almost cut out by a defender but it ran to him and he moved into the box, some clever footwork and the keeper was beaten, then a defender. He seemed to have taken too long but he fired firmly into the net. Full-time, extra time: 3-3.

So into the dreaded penalties the game went. See the next page for details.

<b>Kicks From The Penalty Mark:</b>			
Odd Down taker	result	Chippenham taker	result
<b>Jacobs</b>	<b>Scored 1</b>		
		Legg	Saved
<b>Gilbert</b>	<b>Scored 2</b>		
		<b>Greenhalgh</b>	<b>Scored 1</b>
<b>Burns</b>	<b>Scored 3</b>		
		<b>Samm</b>	<b>Scored 2</b>
<b>Lye</b>	<b>Scored 4</b>		
		<b>Cripps</b>	<b>Scored 3</b>
Schwarz	Saved		
		<b>Grigg</b>	<b>Scored 4</b>
Newman	Saved		
		Fielding	Missed—hit post
<b>Blay</b>	<b>Scored 5</b>		
		Trowbridge	Saved

Now, there was even drama for the penalties too!

Odd Down were in the driving seat all the way until Schwarz's kick, which could have wrapped it up, was easily saved by Shipp. Grigg then levelled it up at 4-4. Next, Shipp also saved Newman's effort and the advantage veered Chippenham's way. But Fielding's kick hit the inside of the post and across goal (but not into it!). Blay confidently netted for Odd Down and it all came down to Trowbridge. His most eventful game came to an end when Radford saved his kick and it was Odd Down who progressed.

My view on penalties is it's just a way to decide who goes through (or in a final, where the cup has a resting place for a while). The game itself is a draw, no one really wins, successful or otherwise from that 12-yard mark.

This very match, with its excitement, goals and penalty drama does, in itself, qualify to be posted on this webpage. However, there is another reason and there is an indicator why in the title.

I had mentioned that this was my third visit to the ground which isn't local to me and all three matches had gone to extra time and were followed by the 'dreaded penalties'. All were against Premier Division opponents in the League Cup too. Odd Down were successful on each occasion (vs Liskeard Athletic in August 1983 and vs Melksham Town in November 1986, as well as on this day). This was only the eighth time I'd seen 'pens' to decide a game and three of them had happened here! I did make one further visit just over a year later and that too was a League Cup fixture but it was settled 'in the ninety'.

To bring matters up to date, it appears that the club has added Bath in brackets as a suffix to its name at some point and Combe Hay Lane has been renamed the 'Lew Hill Memorial Ground', after a long serving former club president.

*Compiled from my written notes and posted in February 2023.*

