

# AUGUST 2005 — KEEPER SCORES TWICE—IS IT A RECORD?!

## Sevenoaks Town 4-2 Chertsey Town

SEVENOAKS TOWN	
1	Craig Clarke
2	Kris Hollidge
3	Cominic Websdale
4	Dave Waters
5	Martin West
6	Steve Simpson
7	Wayne Balmer
8	Dave Forster
9	Ross Cable
10	Toby Ademoso
11	Geoff Sweeting
SUBSTITUTES (3/5 allowed)	
12	Richard Percy (used)
14	Andy Mills
15	Danny Powell (used)
16	Rikki Cable (used)
17	John Paul Green

Venue	Greatness Park, Sevenoaks
Date	Saturday 20th August 2005
Competition	FA Cup— Extra Preliminary Round
Referee	Mr P B Wright
Attendance	133

Match Details			
14	1-0	Clarke <sup>1</sup> [pen 1]	
24	2-0	Ross Cable	
27	3-0	Hollidge	
44	3-1		Harper
90	4-1	Clarke <sup>2</sup> [pen 2]	
90+6	4-2		Pomroy

CHERTSEY TOWN	
1	Danny Cooper
2	Neerav Patel
3	Scott Wadge
4	Kevin Cleary
5	Jack McKinlay
6	Steve Baker
7	Paul McGovern
8	Ralf Little
9	John Pomroy
10	Michael Harper
11	Jamie Muldowney
SUBSTITUTES (3/5 allowed)	
12	James Morrison
13	George Helsdown (used)
14	Tom Shanks
15	Matt Nash
16	Tony Green (used)

I have collected a fair amount of programmes in now well over fifty years of watching this beautiful game known as football. I was looking through some programmes from the 1988/89 season (as you do from time-to-time; well, I do!) and when looking through a Chesham United issue for their match with the Metropolitan Police discovered an interesting fact. The programme included snippets from the weekly League Newsletter and, under the heading of Hampton, it noted that Alan Cooling, who was almost 40 years old, came out of retirement to play for the Hampton reserve team due to a keeper crisis at the club. I read on to discover that Cooling, apparently made history when he became the first keeper to score in an FA Cup tie. It was stated that this occurred ten years previously, when Hampton played Barnet and a certain Jimmy Greaves was in the opposition line-up.

I have always had a fascination with goalkeepers scoring goals; after all, it's a feat they aren't meant to do!! I did wonder whether that Alan Cooling goal was, in fact, the first by a keeper in the competition. After all, the FA Cup goes back to 1871 and the Laws have changed an awful lot over the course of time. Forward to the present day and a check of the internet shows that Mr Cooling is still attributed as being the first goal scoring FA Cup keeper, although the *Wikipedia* page for Hampton FC does cautiously state he is "thought to be" the first and confirms the date to be in November 1977.

I then wonder whether any goalkeeper has scored more than one goal in an FA Cup match and suddenly came one of those 'light bulb' moments!! I have actually seen that occur!

I attended an early season FA Cup game at a 'new ground' of the rather grandiosely named Greatness Park, at the delightful Kent town of Sevenoaks where the locals met Chertsey Town in the Extra Preliminary Round of the famous competition. It's strange that the FA Cup creates so much interest at lower levels but, whilst neither of these teams were going to win the infamous trophy itself, the aim would be to progress as far as possible and who knows how far it could go, complete with all the financial rewards and media coverage that go with it.

A hold up on the M25 delayed the Surrey visitors and they arrived at 2.30 for the 3pm kick-off. Walworth referee Mr Wright sensibly allowed the game to start fifteen minutes later than the scheduled time to enable the visiting side, known as the Curfews, a decent warm-up. Included in the Chertsey midfield was actor Ralf Little, of the *Royle Family* and *A Pint of Lager and a Packet of Crisps* fame, who had a decent semi-professional footballing career.

It soon got away at the revised time. Sevenoaks Town bedecked in their azure and black shirts were one level below the red and white's of Chertsey in football's pecking order (known as the National League System or Pyramid).

Sevenoaks netted three goals in the opening 27 minutes. The first, fourteen minutes in, came when Ademosa was brought down in the box by keeper Cooper and up stepped his opposite number **Clarke** to hit firmly and high via a touch off Cooper's arm for a fine penalty. Ademosa played a good ball to **Ross Cable** on the left. He cut inside, feigned a defender and slotted low into the far corner. That was quickly followed by a third goal, an innocuous looking ball found **Hollidge** who struck a 'swinger' which went over Cooper, who was off his line, and dropped in.

A little niggles crept in and three yellow cards were necessary. Scorer Clarke did well in his more familiar role by twice denying Harper with good saves. Chertsey did pull a goal back before half-time when **Harper** had space on the right to chip home. An entertaining first period ended 3-1.



The second half was a bit more of a battle as Sevenoaks were doing their best to preserve their lead. Chertsey were trying hard to probe for an opening too. It became a bit like a chess game. Things got a bit heated near to the home bench and someone there collected a booking from the referee. Clarke denied a shot on the turn from Harper.

Into the latter stages and home sub Powell, running through, was brought down in the box by Cooper and **Clarke** did it again, another blaster, this time deep into the top corner. The Sevenoaks keeper therefore became the team's top scorer in the season, albeit at a very early stage in the campaign. There was still time for **Pomroy** to chip in from wide on the left into the far corner for Chertsey. Full-time: 4-2.

This remains the only time I'd seen a keeper score two goals in a game (at the time of writing), an event worth highlighting in itself. Perhaps 'Greatness' was actually an aptly title for the ground in the end! It is the venue where it is 'thought to be' the first time a keeper has scored twice in an FA Cup tie? Or is it? Does anyone out there know differently? Do get in touch if you do and, if so the record can be put straight on this very page.

(Above)  
The Chesham United programme above is from the 1988/89 season.  
It's content prompted this choice of game.

(Right) The Sevenoaks Town programme for the game

