

Leap Year Madness

Mike Royden, Everton FC Heritage Society

Everton v Aston Villa Friday, 28 February 1964

The *Liverpool Echo* called it 'The Most Freakish and Eventful Game Played at Goodison.' It was a leap year, and the players, officials and the 50,292 crowd certainly needed the extra day to recover. The Blues may have moved into second spot with a 4-2 home win against a Villa side with future Everton boss Gordon Lee in defence, but it was far from the easy victory that the scoreline suggests.

MOST FREAKISH AND EVENTFUL GAME PLAYED AT GOODISON

**Referee And Goalkeeper
Are Carried Off**

EVERTON NOW SECOND

By **LESLIE EDWARDS**

The most freakish, most eventful game ever played at Goodison Park. That is the only apt description of the game last night in which Everton beat Aston Villa by 4-2 and so moved into second place in the League table.

side, turned the ball on to the goal line from the right, and Stevens, throwing himself at it headed it into the net as he fell to the turf.

Vernon, brought down in the penalty area at 55 minutes, recovered in time to take the award from the spot and put his side in front.

The 1963-64 teams



ASTON VILLA F.C.

Back row, L to R: Lee, Fraser, Deakin, Sims, Aitken, Sleeuwenhoek
Front row, L to R: Baker, Thomson, Hateley, Woosnam, Burrows



EVERTON F.C.

*Back row, L to R: Young, Gabriel, Scott, Parker, West, Heslop, Labone, Meagan, Kay
Front row, L to R: Harris, Veall, Temple, Vernon, Stevens, Bingham, Morrissey*

As we look back today on the 60th anniversary of this 1960s fixture, this six-goal fest had everything. Not that you could see much - it was a murky Friday evening with the fog growing denser as the second half went on, until it became impossible to make out who was who from the terraces. But by that stage, the Goodison Faithful had already seen Everton go a goal down after five minutes; two referees (the original ref carried off on a stretcher); three linesmen (one of them the Everton coach Ron Lewin); Villa goalkeeper Sidebottom carried off on a stretcher for a night in Broadgreen (the victim of delayed concussion); three Villa players booked; three sitters missed by the Blues; a penalty awarded; and a goal created by Young that was offside, but given, as it was too foggy to spot the infringement.

After 35 minutes, the referee Mr Bill Holian from Chesterfield, was accidentally charged in the back and pulled a thigh muscle as he fell awkwardly. It was a bizarre delay during which the crowd were treated to a 'gramophone record,' an SOS appeal for a particular spectator, and the sight of Villa's keeper, who

had received a blow to the chin while making a save from Young a few minutes earlier, suddenly hitting the turf face down as though poleaxed in the ring. The Villa players deserted the referee to tend to their own player, and after a further delay, he too left the scene of carnage on a stretcher. Earlier, the first referee had cause to inspect Tony Kay's studs after Wylie of Villa had received a kick to his stomach and his shirt torn top to bottom which had to be replaced. They clashed again, and Wylie was booked.

On the restart, Everton equalised through Stevens, latching on to a pass from Young, who looked suspiciously offside. The deputy-referee peered through the gloom at the deputy-linesman, but saw no flag from the Everton coach, and the goal stood. But Villa screamed offside all the way back to the centre circle.

Linesman Burns who had replaced the injured referee, booked John Sleeuwenhoek (who had gone in goal) for kicking the ball away, plus Villa's Graham. Meanwhile, the police frogmarched away a few protesting Villa supporters, who with their gifts of super fog-vision, were also convinced Young was off.



JOHN SLEEUWENHOEK, Aston Villa

EVERTON					
Right	(Blue Jerseys)				Left
WEST (1)					
BROWN (2)			MEAGAN (3)		
GABRIEL (4)		LABONE (5)		KAY (6)	
SCOTT (7)	STEVENS (8)	REES (9)	HILL (10)	MORRISSEY (11)	
		YOUNG	VERNON	TEMPLE	
Referee:			Linesmen:		
Mr. W. M. Holian			Mr. H. Burns (Yellow Flag)		
(Chesterfield)			Mr. H. Hindle (Red Flag)		
					
BURROWS (11)	GRAHAM (10)	WOOSNAM (9)	WYLIE (8)	MAC EWAN (7)	
DEAKIN (6)	SLEEUWENHOEK (5)	TINDALL (4)			
AITKEN (3)			LEE (2)		
SIDEBOTTOM (1)					
Left	(Claret and Light Blue Jerseys)				Right
ASTON VILLA					



EVERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

GOODISON PARK
LIVERPOOL



FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION I

**EVERTON v.
ASTON VILLA**

FRIDAY, 28th FEBRUARY, 1964

Kick-off 7-30 p.m.

Price 6^d

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Mr J Jones of Moreton, watching from the stands, had seen enough. A qualified linesman, he offered his services and the Everton coach was replaced. And this was just the first half.

Everton went 2-1 up in the 55th when Vernon scored from the spot after being brought down. Young drove home the third, and according to those that saw it, Alex Scott converted a rebound after the keeper parried his shot. But it was far from over. Ten-man Villa mounted a brave fight-back and scored a second through Graham, who was a limping passenger for the remaining 15 minutes (no subs till the 1964-65 season). Villa, still furious regarding the Everton linesman, intended to report the matter to the League, while on the goalkeeper's injury, former Everton hero, now the Villa boss, Joe Mercer, said, "The great thing from our point of view, was that the player involved was Alex Young, we know therefore, that it must have been an accident."

Once an Evertonian....

ASTON VILLA 1963-64



Back row: W. Briggs, M. Tindall, C. Aitken, K. Fencott, J. Fraser, R. Wylie.

Centre: G. Graham, G. Lee, J. Gavan, N. Sims, G. Sidebottom, T. Hateley, L. Chatterley.

Front: Mr. J. Mercer (Manager), J. McEwan, A. Deakin, V. Crowe, R. Thomson, H. Burrows, A. Baker, R. Shaw (Trainer).



ASTON VILLA 1963/64

Back Row: G. Lee, A. O'Neill, J. Dugdale, N. Sims, J. Steuwenhoek, G. Sidebottom, C. Aitken, D. Dougan, A. Deakin.

Middle Row: W. Moore (Trn), J. Neal, R. Wylie, V. Crowe, T. Ewing, H. Burrows, R. Thomson, J. McEwan, J. Mercer (Mgr).

Front Row: M. Tindall, A. Baker, J. McMorran.

LEAP YEAR MADNESS:

EVERTON V ASTON VILLA, 28 FEBRUARY 1964

The Liverpool Echo called it 'The Most Freakish and Eventful Game Played at Goodison.'

1964 was a leap year, and the players, officials and the 50,292 crowd certainly needed the extra day to recover. Everton moved into second spot in the First Division table with a 4-2 home win against a Villa side with future Everton boss Gordon Lee in defence, but it was far from straightforward.

This six-goal fest had everything - not that the fans could see much of it. The Friday evening fog grew progressively denser, making it impossible to identify players from the terraces in the second half.

The Goodison faithful had already seen Everton go a goal down after five minutes. Thirty minutes later, referee Bill Holian was accidentally charged in the back, pulling a thigh muscle as he fell awkwardly. During this bizarre delay, the crowd was treated to a gramophone record, being played and the sight of the Villa keeper hitting the turf face down, as though poleaxed (the result of concussion after a blow

to the chin while making a save from Alex Young a few minutes earlier). After a further delay, he too left the scene of carnage on a stretcher. Earlier, the referee had cause to inspect Tony Kay's studs after Wylie of Villa had received a kick to his stomach. His shirt was torn from top to bottom and had to be replaced.

Linesman Burns replaced the injured referee with Toffees coach Ron Lewin running the line. On the restart Dennis Stevens latched on to a pass from Young to equalise. Young had looked suspiciously offside, but no flag was raised by Lewin and the goal stood. Villa screamed for offside all the way back to the centre circle. Centre-half John Sleuwenhoek (who had gone in goal) was booked for kicking the ball away - as was George Graham. Meanwhile, the police frogmarched away a few protesting Villa supporters.

Mr J Jones of Moreton, a qualified linesman watching from the stands, had seen enough. He offered his services and duly replaced the Everton coach. And this was just the first half!

Roy Vernon put the Blues 2-1 ahead with a spot-kick and Alex Young drove home the third before Alex Scott made it 4-1. Ten-man Villa (no subs were permitted until the 1964/65 season) mounted a brave fightback and scored a second through Graham, who was



Ron Lewin

a limping passenger by the end. Post-match, a still furious Villa threatened to report the missed offside decision to the League. Of the goalkeeper's injury, former Everton hero and now the Villa boss, Joe Mercer, said: "The great thing from our point of view, was that the player involved was Alex Young. We know, therefore, that it must have been an accident." Once an Evertonian...

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