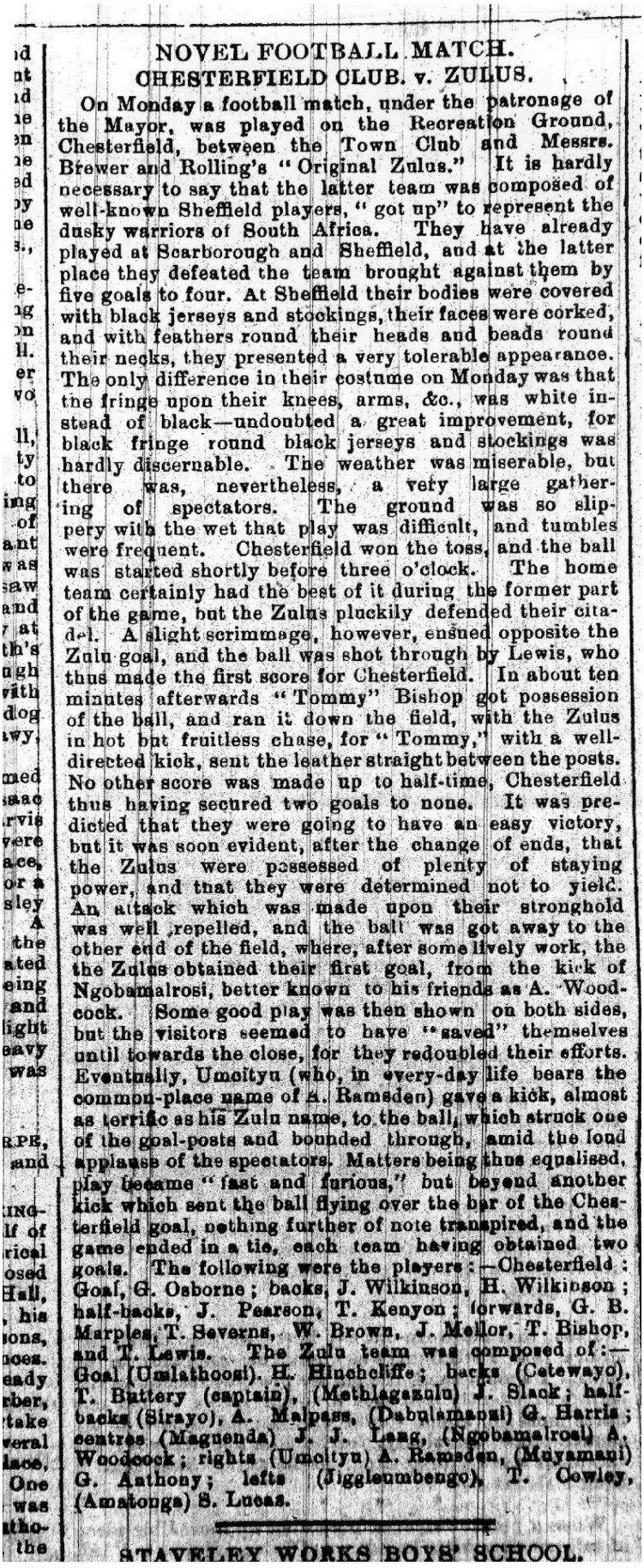
The Great Games: "Zulus, Sir - thousands of 'em!"



NOVEL FOOTBALL MATCH.
CHESTERFIELD CLUB. v. ZULUS.

On Monday a football match, under the patronage of the Mayor, was played on the Recreation Ground, Chesterfield, between the Town Club and Messrs. Brewer and Rolling's "Original Zulus." It is hardly necessary to say that the latter team was composed of well-known Sheffield players, "got up" to represent the dusky warriors of South Africa. They have already played at Scarborough and Sheffield, and at the latter place they defeated the team brought against them by five goals to four. At Sheffield their bodies were covered with black jerseys and stockings, their faces were corked, and with feathers round their heads and beads round their necks, they presented a very tolerable appearance. The only difference in their costume on Monday was that the fringe upon their knees, arms, &c., was white instead of black—undoubted a great improvement, for black fringe round black jerseys and stockings was hardly discernable. The weather was miserable, but there was, nevertheless, a very large gathering of spectators. The ground was so slippery with the wet that play was difficult, and tumbles were frequent. Chesterfield won the toss, and the ball was started shortly before three o'clock. The home team certainly had the best of it during the former part of the game, but the Zulus pluckily defended their citadel. A slight scrimmage, however, ensued opposite the Zulu goal, and the ball was shot through by Lewis, who thus made the first score for Chesterfield. In about ten minutes afterwards "Tommy" Bishop got possession of the ball, and ran it down the field, with the Zulus in hot but fruitless chase, for "Tommy," with a well-directed kick, sent the leather straight between the posts. No other score was made up to half-time, Chesterfield thus having secured two goals to none. It was predicted that they were going to have an easy victory, but it was soon evident, after the change of ends, that the Zulus were possessed of plenty of staying power, and that they were determined not to yield. An attack which was made upon their stronghold was well repelled, and the ball was got away to the other end of the field, where, after some lively work, the the Zulus obtained their first goal, from the kick of Ngobamalrosi, better known to his friends as A. Woodcock. Some good play was then shown on both sides, but the visitors seemed to have "saved" themselves until towards the close, for they redoubled their efforts. Eventually, Umcityu (who, in every-day life bears the common-place name of A. Ramsden) gave a kick, almost as terrific as his Zulu name, to the ball, which struck one of the goal-posts and bounded through, amid the loud applause of the spectators. Matters being thus equalised, play became "fast and furious," but beyond another kick which sent the ball flying over the bar of the Chesterfield goal, nothing further of note transpired, and the game ended in a tie, each team having obtained two goals. The following were the players:—Chesterfield: Goal, G. Osborne; backs, J. Wilkinson, H. Wilkinson; half-backs, J. Pearson, T. Kenyon; forwards, G. B. Marples, T. Severns, W. Brown, J. Mellor, T. Bishop, and T. Lewis. The Zulu team was composed of:—Goal (Umlathoosi), H. Hinchcliffe; backs (Cetewayo), T. Buttery (captain), (Methlagazulu) J. Slack; half-backs (Sirayo), A. Malpass, (Dabulamanzi) G. Harris; centres (Maguenda) J. J. Lang, (Ngobamalrosi) A. Woodcock; rights (Umcityu) A. Ramsden, (Mayamani) G. Anthony; lefts (Jiggleumbengo), T. Cowley, (Amatonga) S. Lucas.

STAVELEY WORKS BOYS' SCHOOL.

You simply couldn't do this, nowadays, and being a (once-beardy) woke liberal, I think that is a good thing. The Zulus were formed by Sheffield footballers in 1879 to play benefit matches for the widows and orphans of the Zulu Wars, but they soon fell foul of all sorts of allegations that they had trousered some of the money in order to pay themselves a wage for playing! This was an era when the game was still staunchly amateur, according to its public face, although ad-hoc payments to good players were rife. (Chesterfield's Tommy Bishop played five games for different clubs on successive days in one week in 1880, and you can bet that he didn't do that for half an orange at half-time.)

One of the team's last acts before disbandment in 1882 was to turn down the invitation of a tour to South Africa, of all places! The report is of extra interest since it contains one of the earliest references to Chesterfield as "The Town Club," a distinction that was probably stressed to differentiate it from the Spital Club, who were by then styling themselves as "Chesterfield (Spital.)" The

match also saw what I suspect was the first programme issued for a Chesterfield FC home game. It was issued and sold by the visiting team to further boost their funds, but it was a programme, still, and at a Chesterfield home game!