The Great Games: Off you trot!

January 14th, 1911: Bolton Wanderers 0 - Chesterfield 2 (FA Cup, first round proper)

This result shocked the football world - Bolton were top of the Second Division at the time of the game, while Chesterfield Town were muddling around in fifth place in the Midland League. An enthusiastic director described the result as "The salvation of football in Chesterfield!" and, considering the revenue they got from their next tie, at Chelsea, he was probably spot-on. So began the tradition of getting something at Bolton in the Cup!

Match report from the Athletic News, via the British Newspaper Archive:

Referee: J. F. Pearson, Dudley.

A BOMBSHELL AT BOLTON.

*Chesterfield Town 2 *Bolton Wanderers 0*

[By Crossbar.]

THE word disappointment but mildly expressed the feelings of the supporters of Bolton Wanderers when the call of time signalised their exit from this Cup competition. Chesterfield thoroughly deserved their success. They played a typical Cup-tie game, and maintained their dash and go-ahead tactics right up to the close. They were a well balanced side and their smartness in taking the ball on the run, swinging it across from wing to wing, and the whole front rank generally closing in around Edmondson won them the game. The Wanderers shaped badly in comparison with their opponents. They were earnest and energetic, but seemed unable to do anything right in front of goal.

WHERE THE WANDERERS FAILED.

They were opposed to an alert and clever custodian, two clever and strong defenders and a middle line which never ceased to harass their movements. The Boltonians made one big mistake. They seemed to treat their opponents too lightly at the onset, and when once the Derbyshire men took the lead they tried to recover their lost ground, but it was too late. The visitors devoted their efforts to retaining their advantage, and in the second period particularly they packed their goalmouth well. There were some keen exciting struggles fronting Summers, but the Wanderers failed to pierce the defence.

None of the Wanderers displayed marked brilliance, but on the winning side Stevens was very speedy and clever, and Revill shot with marked accuracy. The last-named, indeed, scored both goals for his side. The first was gained twelve minutes from the start. Stevens dropped in a fine centre, and Revill, meeting the ball as it fell, drove it into the net. It was by the odd goal that the visitors led at the interval.

The second goal came 22 minutes after the resumption when Revill again met a pass from Bovill, and, close in, beat the custodian, the ball striking the post and glancing into the net. The Boltonians gave their best display just after the change of ends when for a period of fifteen minutes they completely overwhelmed their opponents, but the Chesterfield defence never wavered.

RUMOURS OF A PROTEST.

The match was decided under very unpleasant meteorological conditions. A drizzling rain was falling, and a thick mist, which developed into a fog, enveloped the enclosure. This was very pronounced towards the close, when it was absolutely impossible to distinguish either goal, or to follow the play from the stands. The only guide as to the course of events were the rapidly-moving figures, like spectres in the mist.

There was a general rumour that a protest on the ground of bad light had been made by one side or the other, but inquiries elicited that this was without foundation.

Bolton Wanderers.—Edmondson; Stott, Baverstock; Marsh, Greenhalgh, Barber; Stokes, Hilton, Hughes, Smith, and Vizard.

Chesterfield.—Summers; Cuthbert, Strettle; Thacker, Derby, Munday; Millar, Revill, Raybould, Bovill, and Stevens.

Referee: A. H. Oakley, Wolverhampton.