

= 2003 FA Community Shield =

The 2003 FA Community Shield was the 81st FA Community Shield , an annual English football match played between the winners of the previous season 's Premier League and FA Cup competitions . It was held at Cardiff 's Millennium Stadium , on 10 August 2003 . The match was played between Manchester United , champions of the 2002 ? 03 Premier League and Arsenal , who beat Southampton 1 ? 0 in the 2003 FA Cup Final . Manchester United won the Shield 4 ? 3 on penalties , after the match finished 1 ? 1 after 90 minutes .

This was Manchester United 's 22nd Community Shield appearance and Arsenal 's 17th . Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson assessed before the match that his midfield was stronger than before , despite selling first @-@ team players David Beckham and Juan Sebastián Verón . Arsène Wenger was optimistic of Arsenal 's prospects in the upcoming season despite having only made minor changes to his squad , and Chelsea 's emergence as a competitor following Roman Abramovich 's takeover . Having been linked with a transfer away during the summer , Arsenal captain Patrick Vieira revealed before the game his intention to stay at the club .

Goalkeepers Tim Howard and Jens Lehmann made their competitive debuts for their respective clubs in the match . Ole Gunnar Solskjær started in midfield for Manchester United , with Paul Scholes playing behind the main striker , Ruud van Nistelrooy . For Arsenal , Kolo Touré partnered Sol Campbell in central defence as Martin Keown was absent . Mikaël Silvestre gave Manchester United the lead in the 15th minute from a corner , but Thierry Henry equalised for Arsenal five minutes later from a free @-@ kick . In the second half , substitute Francis Jeffers was sent off for kicking out at Phil Neville . Neither team was able to score in the remaining time , so the match was decided by a penalty shoot @-@ out . Howard saved the decisive spot @-@ kick taken by Robert Pirès .

Both managers were pleased with their teams ' performances , in particular Ferguson , who felt his players coped well in the heat . The 2003 Community Shield brought its lowest crowd since 1995 ; Wenger reasoned there was " less and less appetite " for the event .

= = Background = =

Founded in 1908 as a successor to the Sheriff of London Charity Shield , the FA Community Shield began as a contest between the respective champions of the Football League and Southern League , although in 1913 , it was played between an Amateurs XI and a Professionals XI . In 1921 , it was played by the league champions of the top division and FA Cup winners for the first time . Wembley Stadium acted as the host of the Shield from 1974 . Cardiff 's Millennium Stadium was hosting the Shield for the third time ; it took over as the venue for the event while Wembley Stadium underwent a six @-@ year renovation between 2001 and 2006 .

Manchester United qualified for the 2003 FA Community Shield by winning the Premier League ? their eighth championship in 11 years . Despite making their worst start to a league campaign since the 1989 ? 90 season , the team finished five points clear of second @-@ placed Arsenal , the pre @-@ season favourites . Arsenal 's campaign was compensated by an appearance in the 2003 FA Cup Final ; the team beat Southampton 1 ? 0 to retain the trophy and qualify for the Community Shield .

Manchester United were appearing in the Community Shield for the 22nd time , having won 10 outright (1908 , 1911 , 1952 , 1956 , 1957 , 1983 , 1993 , 1994 , 1996 , 1997) , sharing four (1965 , 1967 , 1977 , 1990) and losing seven (1948 , 1963 , 1985 , 1998 , 1999 , 2000 , 2001) . In contrast , Arsenal appeared in 16 previous Shields , likewise winning 10 outright (1930 , 1931 , 1933 , 1934 , 1938 , 1948 , 1953 , 1998 , 1999 , 2002) , while sharing one (1991) and losing five (1935 , 1936 , 1979 , 1989 , 1993) . This was the fifth meeting between the two clubs in the Community Shield ; Arsenal won three of those meetings to Manchester United 's one .

= = Pre @-@ match = =

Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson said before the Community Shield that new signings Eric Djemba @-@ Djemba and Kléberson had made his midfield stronger , in spite of selling first @-@ team players David Beckham and Juan Sebastián Verón : " The two of them give us youth in that department and I think it 's important to have young legs in there , particularly with the amount of games we play . "

Arsenal captain Patrick Vieira revealed his intention to stay at the club , despite interest from Chelsea , who had been acquired by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich in the summer . Manager Arsène Wenger used his press conference to look ahead to the new season and felt his team 's chances were as good , if not better than Chelsea 's : " I can understand that we look a little bit poor and out of shape but what is important is what happens on the pitch and you will see that we look good . To write us off just because we haven 't spent £ 100 million is a bit easy . "

Neither United nor Arsenal made noticeable changes to their squad , but Ferguson believed both teams would remain the ones to beat in the Premier League : " There 's only really ourselves and Arsenal who know what it takes to win the Premiership . It 's not an easy thing to achieve . You need experience . "

= = Match = =

= = = Team selection = = =

Goalkeeper Tim Howard started his first competitive match for Manchester United , replacing Fabien Barthez , while Quinton Fortune was selected at left @-@ back ahead of John O 'Shea . They lined up in a 4 ? 4 ? 1 ? 1 formation , with forward Ole Gunnar Solskjær positioned on the right wing and Paul Scholes playing just off the main striker , Ruud van Nistelrooy . For Arsenal , Jens Lehmann made his first competitive appearance . The team lined up in a 4 ? 4 ? 2 formation . Kolo Touré was paired with defender Sol Campbell at centre @-@ back in the absence of Martin Keown .

= = = Summary = = =

The stadium observed a minute 's silence in memory of Ray Harford and Manchester United reserve player Jimmy Davis , who both died on 9 August 2003 . Arsenal kicked off the match and within the first two minutes Phil Neville and Ashley Cole were booked for mistimed tackles . The match settled into " a more sedate rhythm " soon after , and in the 13th minute , Scholes ' long pass found Solskjær , who was subsequently tackled ; the ball ran out for a corner . It was delivered by Ryan Giggs and the ball was flicked on by Roy Keane at the near post ? an unmarked Mikaël Silvestre headed it into the net , which gave United the lead . It was short @-@ lived , however ; in the 18th minute , Nicky Butt conceded a free @-@ kick for a foul on Vieira . From " about 33 yards out " , Henry shot the ball past United 's wall and beat Howard in goal . Arsenal 's equaliser did not hand them the impetus , for United continued to control proceedings . Silvestre 's cross in the 28th minute fashioned a chance for Giggs , though Arsenal 's defence prevented him from getting a shot . Giggs came close to scoring five minutes later ; a cross by Butt found the Welshman whose effort hit the post . United finished the half with two half @-@ chances .

Ray Parlour and Henry came off in the second half for Robert Pirès and Sylvain Wiltord . United created an early chance , but Van Nistelrooy was unable to make the most of Giggs ' delivery . The player went down in the penalty area under the challenge of Campbell , prompting United players to appeal for a penalty ; however , referee Steve Bennett decided to let play continue . Arsenal countered twice thereafter , but their attacks broke down on both counts . Vieira , Scholes and Quinton Fortune were booked for tackles during a 10 @-@ minute spell . Both clubs made substitutions in the midway point of the second half : for Arsenal , Bergkamp , Gilberto and Ljungberg were replaced by Francis Jeffers , Edu and Giovanni van Bronckhorst , whereas for United , Butt and Fortune came off for Eric Djemba @-@ Djemba and John O 'Shea . In the 72nd

minute , Jeffers was shown a red card for kicking out at Neville . Ferguson brought on striker Diego Forlán for Neville six minutes later . Djemba @-@ Djemba avoided a yellow card for his challenge on Campbell in the 80th minute ; Bennett deemed it unintentional .

The game descended into a scrappy affair in the last few minutes , with few clear cut chances for either side . With no further goals , it was decided by penalties . Scholes , Edu and Ferdinand converted their kicks , before Howard saved Van Bronkhorst 's effort . Van Nistelrooy missed his and Wiltord scored to level the tally at 2 ? 2 in the shoot @-@ out . Solskjær , Lauren and Forlán scored , but Pirès missed ? his effort saved by Howard ? which won United the Shield , 4 ? 3 on penalties .

= = = Details = = =

= = = Statistics = = =

= = Post @-@ match = =

Henry Winter of The Daily Telegraph opined that , injuries to players aside , " The Community Shield itself experienced most damage " . Arsenal returned 8 @, @ 000 of their ticket allocation , while transport problems meant spectators were unable to reach Cardiff in time . A crowd of 59 @, @ 923 was the Shield 's lowest in eight years .

Ferguson was delighted in how his team coped with the pitchside temperatures : " You had to be down there to appreciate it . I was told it was 41 degrees on the pitch ? I know I was roasting just watching them . " When asked about Howard 's positioning for Arsenal 's equaliser , he replied : " Tim wanted three in the wall and he will learn from that . This isn 't America . " Silvestre denied suggestions that the win gave United a psychological edge over Arsenal : " This is still a pre @-@ season game . We won the Premiership title with a strong run at the end of last season . " Howard was unsure whether he would displace Barthez in the first team for a prolonged run ? " that 's not my decision " , though continued " We have four great goalkeepers and we 're looking to have a good battle all season long . "

Wenger was content with his team 's performance : " We are at only 80 % fitness and still we got a draw with Manchester United , " and thought his defence stood firm against United 's attack . He felt Jeffers ' dismissal was " deserved " for overreacting , but added , " He 's apologised . He realised he made a mistake . He 's intelligent , he 's young and he 'll learn . " The performance of Lehmann encouraged the Arsenal manager ; he noted that the goalkeeper was " amazed to see the referee wave play on after one aerial challenge . " Wenger made reference to Arsenal 's low crowd turnout and suggested it meant there was " less and less appetite " for the Shield .