

= 1926 FA Cup Final =

The 1926 FA Cup Final was a football match between Bolton Wanderers and Manchester City on 24 April 1926 at Wembley Stadium in London . The showpiece match of English football 's primary cup competition , the Football Association Challenge Cup (better known as the FA Cup) , it was the 55th final , and the fourth at Wembley .

Each team progressed through five rounds to reach the final . Both teams were members of the Football League First Division , Bolton Wanderers occupying a position in upper @-@ mid @-@ table and Manchester City next to bottom . Consequently , Bolton entered the match as favourites and , as expected , went on to win , their single goal being scored by David Jack .

= = Route to the final = =

= = = Bolton Wanderers = = =

Both teams entered the competition in the third round , the entry point for First Division clubs . Bolton Wanderers were drawn away at Accrington Stanley but , following a request to the FA , the match was switched to Bolton for crowd safety reasons . Bolton 's David Jack scored the only goal of the game in an unexpectedly close contest . To the resentment of the Bolton crowd , Ted Vizard was sent off for the first time in his career , leading the referee to require a police escort to the railway station . In the fourth round Bolton were held to a surprise draw at Third Division Bournemouth . The Wanderers lost Bill Cope to injury after fifteen minutes . A 1 ? 0 half @-@ time lead quickly turned into a 2 ? 1 deficit early in the second half but , with five minutes remaining , Jack scored an equaliser .

Bolton 's fifth round home tie against South Shields produced a straightforward 3 ? 0 victory . The goals were scored by Joe Smith , Jack Smith and David Jack , the latter maintaining his record of scoring in every round . The quarter @-@ final against Nottingham Forest required two replays to produce a winner . Following a 2 ? 2 draw in Nottingham and a goalless game in Bolton , the Wanderers prevailed 1 ? 0 in another close game held at Old Trafford . Bolton drew Swansea Town , the last remaining Second Division club , in the semi @-@ final . This meant Bolton did not meet a single First Division club in their path to the final . Three early goals gave Bolton a comfortable 3 ? 0 win at White Hart Lane .

= = = Manchester City = = =

Manchester City 's third round tie was against the amateur club Corinthians at Crystal Palace . The third round was the furthest Corinthians had ever progressed , though until 1923 the club never entered the cup due to club rules preventing them from entering any competition with a prize . Manchester City went behind and only equalised three minutes from time . The Corinthians goalkeeper , Benjamin Howard Baker collided with a team @-@ mate , causing him to take more than four steps with the ball . From the resulting free kick , Frank Roberts scored in a goalmouth melee to take the tie to a replay , held the following Wednesday . The rematch proved less even . Manchester City won 4 ? 0 courtesy of goals by Austin (twice) , Hicks and Johnson . After his goal , Hicks had to leave the field as he had sustained an injury while performing a celebratory somersault . In the fourth round , City faced league champions Huddersfield Town and again won 4 ? 0 . The crowd of 74 @, @ 799 was by far the highest of the round , and only 1 @, @ 200 short of the club record . Manchester City were drawn at home to Crystal Palace in the fifth round . A final score of 11 ? 4 set a club record for the number of goals in a game and was City 's biggest margin of victory since 1903 . Frank Roberts scored five and Tommy Browell also scored a hat @-@ trick . Yet another high scoring win was achieved in the quarter @-@ final , when Clapton Orient were beaten 6 ? 1 . Johnson scored a hat @-@ trick and Hicks scored for the fifth successive cup match .

In the semi @-@ final , Manchester City faced local rivals Manchester United in a derby match at

Bramall Lane . Browell scored the opener from a Hicks corner amid vehement protests for handball from the United players . Later in the half , United 's Frank Barson flattened Sam Cowan with an " ugly challenge " for which he later received a suspension . In the second half , Browell and Roberts each scored to make the final score 3 ? 0 .

= = Build @-@ up = =

Both teams had won the FA Cup on one previous occasion and had met in the 1904 FA Cup Final . In that match , Manchester City won 1 ? 0 thanks to a Billy Meredith goal . The 1904 meeting was Manchester City 's only previous final , whereas the 1926 tie was the fourth time Bolton had reached the final . They lost in 1894 and 1904 , but won the competition for the first time in the " White Horse Final " of 1923 , the first to be held at Wembley . The 1926 final was the first to be held since the change to the offside rule in 1925 . It now required two defenders behind an attacker receiving the ball instead of three , a change which increased the average number of goals per match .

Of the two teams , Bolton Wanderers had the better league form . After rising as high as fourth early in the league season , Bolton spent the majority of the year in mid @-@ table and finally finished 8th of the 22 First Division clubs with 44 points from their 42 league fixtures . Manchester City remained in the lower reaches of the league table throughout the season and were relegated after finishing 21st with 35 points . Their matches were frequently high scoring . City scored more league goals than second @-@ placed Arsenal , but also had the second @-@ worst defensive record in the division . The two league matches between the teams in the 1925 ? 26 season ended in a 5 ? 1 home win for Bolton in November and a 1 ? 1 draw at Maine Road in March .

In accordance with changes made for the 1924 final onwards , all tickets were sold in advance to prevent a repeat of the overcrowding at the 1923 final . Approximately 91 @,@ 000 tickets were available . 53 @,@ 000 were standing tickets , 15 @,@ 000 were uncovered seats and 23 @,@ 000 were covered seats . Standing tickets cost two shillings , seat prices ranged from five shillings to one guinea . The majority of tickets were sold before the finalists were known . As a result , few supporters of the participating teams attended ; most were unable to afford the remaining tickets available to the general public , which were typically in the more expensive areas of the stadium . 1 @,@ 750 tickets were allocated directly to each club . Bolton fielded 6 @,@ 000 enquiries and lodged a formal protest about the inadequacy of their allocation . The London , Midland and Scottish Railway laid on a total of seven special trains from Manchester to London on the eve and morning of the match . A number of supporters travelled to London without tickets in the hope of securing one outside the stadium . 5s tickets changed hands for up to 15s , provoking the ire of ticketless supporters who accused the sellers of profiteering . In one such instance , a man selling twenty 2s tickets at 10s each required the assistance of five police officers to escape the wrath of the crowd . The total gate receipts for the match were £ 23 @,@ 157 , a new record .

Manchester City prepared for the match by training in the spa town of Buxton . Bolton Wanderers followed their usual training schedule for most of the week , then travelled to Harrow on the Thursday . All eleven men who played for Bolton in their 1923 triumph were still at the club . Of those , only the injured Alex Finney was absent as they travelled to London . Jack Smith had been injured for several weeks in the run @-@ up to the final , but recovered in time and participated in Bolton 's last league match before the tie .

= = Match = =

In the hour before kick @-@ off , the crowd was entertained by the bands of the Royal Engineers and the Chatham Naval Dockyard . Following the National Anthem , the players , match officials and club chairmen were introduced to King George V. The toss was then won by the Bolton captain Joe Smith . In contrast to the lengthy delays which marred Bolton 's previous visit to Wembley , the match kicked off three minutes earlier than scheduled .

As anticipated , Bolton fielded ten of the eleven who played the 1923 final . Left @-@ back Harry Greenhalgh was the only change from the 1923 line @-@ up . Each team played the formation

typical of the era : two full @-@ backs , three half @-@ backs and five forwards . Bolton had the better of the opening exchanges ; the Times correspondent wrote : " In the first five minutes Bolton Wanderers were so superior to their opponents that they might have been giving an exhibition for the cinema against schoolboys " . Manchester City then gradually asserted themselves and had the first clear chance . Frank Roberts took a right @-@ footed shot , but hit the ball straight at Bolton goalkeeper Dick Pym . Overall , the defences enjoyed the better of the play in the first half . Bolton 's Joe Smith was instrumental in much of his team 's attacking play , both he and left @-@ winger Ted Vizard receiving praise for their play .

Hicks , who was generally described as the most effective of the Manchester City forwards , had a chance which he hit high over the crossbar . In a rare spell of sustained Manchester City pressure , a free kick by captain Jimmy McMullan forced a save from Pym , and the resulting near @-@ post corner prompted a goalmouth scramble which ended with a foul on Bolton 's Greenhalgh . Pym made further saves from Browell and Hicks , the latter resulting in a corner . From the corner Bolton won the ball and headed upfield on the counter @-@ attack . Billy Butler 's cross from the right went beyond the goal and was retrieved by Vizard on the left wing . The outside @-@ forward then cut inside and played the ball across goal in a manner described by some correspondents as a shot and others as a pass . David Jack received the ball in the six @-@ yard box and put the ball between Goodchild and McCloy into the City goal , giving Bolton the lead with 14 minutes remaining . In the few minutes after the goal , Manchester City came forward in numbers but lacked clear chances and were hindered by over @-@ eager forwards going offside . Following a goal kick by Pym , the referee blew the final whistle . Bolton won the cup for a second time , becoming the first club to win twice at Wembley .

= = Post @-@ match = =

The Bolton team were greeted by crowds at Bolton Town Hall . In a playful exchange , Joe Smith gave the Cup to the mayor , saying that it had been won for Bolton and was given to Bolton , which the mayor refused . Bolton went on to win a third FA Cup in 1929 , beating Portsmouth 2 ? 0 . The 1929 team contained five of the 1926 cup winners . Goalscorer David Jack was transferred to Arsenal in 1928 . The transfer set a world record as the first to exceed £ 10 @,@ 000 . Jack won one more FA Cup with Arsenal .

Upon arrival back in Manchester , the Manchester City team were given a civic reception at Manchester Town Hall , then immediately travelled to their Maine Road ground to play a league fixture against Leeds . Manchester City won that match 2 ? 1 , but failed to win the following Saturday and were relegated to the Second Division . In doing so they became the first cup finalists ever to be relegated in the same season , a fate since shared by 1969 finalist Leicester City , 1983 finalist Brighton & Hove Albion , 2010 finalist Portsmouth and 2013 winners Wigan Athletic . The final was the last time Albert Alexander 's committee selected the team . Peter Hodge had agreed to join the club as manager well in advance of the final , but was unable to take up the position until his previous club Leicester City completed their league fixtures . Several seasons later , City half @-@ back Sam Cowan went on to captain the club in the 1933 and 1934 finals .

= = Match details = =