

= 1953 FA Charity Shield =

The 1953 Football Association Charity Shield was the 29th FA Charity Shield , an annual football match played between the winners of the previous season 's Football League First Division and FA Cup competitions . It was held at Highbury Stadium on 12 October 1953 . The game was played between Arsenal , champions of the 1952 ? 53 Football League and Blackpool , who had beaten Bolton Wanderers to win the 1953 FA Cup Final . This was Blackpool 's first FA Charity Shield appearance to Arsenal 's ninth .

In the match , Blackpool started strongly and scored first with Stan Mortensen 's goal in the 30th minute . Against the run of play , however , Arsenal equalised through Tommy Lawton and in the second half they went ahead when Doug Lishman reacted first to a rebounded shot . Lishman scored his second of the match in the 80th minute , which sealed a seventh Charity Shield honour for Arsenal .

= = Background = =

The FA Charity Shield was founded in 1908 as a successor to the Sheriff of London Charity Shield . It was a contest between the respective champions of the Football League and Southern League , and then by 1913 teams of amateur and professional players . In 1921 , it was played by the Football League champions and FA Cup winners for the first time .

Arsenal qualified for the 1953 FA Charity Shield as champions of the 1952 ? 53 Football League First Division . The other Charity Shield place went to Blackpool who won the 1952 ? 53 FA Cup . The final of the competition , which pitted Blackpool against Bolton Wanderers , was best remembered for Stanley Matthews ' performance , and later associated by his name . The 1953 Shield marked Blackpool 's first appearance in the annual contest . By contrast , this was Arsenal 's ninth Charity Shield appearance ; prior to the game they had won six Shields (1930 , 1931 , 1933 , 1934 , 1938 and 1948) , and lost two (1935 and 1936) .

Arsenal announced their team two days before the match , recalling Cliff Holton who had recovered from injury . Blackpool refused to reveal their team until the evening of 12 October , but manager Joe Smith did confirm to the press that Matthews would start .

= = Match = =

= = = Summary = = =

On a foggy , floodlit night at Highbury , it was the visitors who dominated the early proceedings ; The Times football correspondent assessing that Blackpool 's forward line had " ? flowed sweetly , the ball on the ground in the most lovely [sic] , sweeping movements . " Matthews was at the heart of their best moves and , in particular , one pass through the Arsenal defence sent Bill Perry clear on goal . He tripped over the incoming Arsenal goalkeeper Jack Kelsey , but quickly managed to get up . With Kelsey out of his line , Perry was presented with the chance to score , but his shot hit the post . Blackpool continued to create chances and went ahead after 30 minutes of play . Breaking forward with the ball from the half @-@ way line , Matthews combined with his team @-@ mate Ernie Taylor , which culminated in Stan Mortensen getting the better of his marker and shooting past Kelsey .

Despite Blackpool 's dominance , Arsenal managed to equalise seconds before half @-@ time . From the left wing , Holton got the better of his opponent Eddie Shimwell by taking the ball off him , and proceeded to cross ; the ball found Tommy Lawton who scored from the byline . Once play resumed in the second half , Blackpool struggled to reproduce the same kind of intensity that had merited their earlier lead . Arsenal dictated play the longer the match went on , and looked more assured in defence ? The Times singled out Mercer ? s growing influence , adding " ? one noticed the improvement of [Bill] Dodgin at centre @-@ half , and the high promise of young [Len] Wills ,

playing only his second game at right back . "

Arsenal took the lead in the 65th minute when Jimmy Logie 's pass was collected by Holton . His shot at goal rebounded into the path of Doug Lishman , who was following up , and he scored . Ten minutes before the end , a cross by Don Roper into Blackpool 's penalty area was headed down by Lawton ; the ball reached Lishman who scored again to make sure of Arsenal 's win .

The Shield was presented to Arsenal by Lord Alexander of Tunis , the Minister of Defence . Gate receipts for the match totalled £ 6 @, @ 589 . In his assessment of the game , The Manchester Guardian 's football correspondent John Woodcock wrote : " The football was not the only thing that had been of a high order . The sportsmanship and spirit in which it was played had been in every way as fine . " Arsenal ended the season 12th in the First Division , and reached the fourth round of the FA Cup . Blackpool finished six positions higher in the league , but progressed no further than the fifth round of the cup competition .

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Source :