

= 1948 FA Charity Shield =

The 1948 FA Charity Shield was the 26th Charity Shield , an annual English association football match played between the winners of the previous season 's Football League and FA Cup . It was the first edition held since the postponement of football during the Second World War . The match , held at Highbury on 6 October 1948 , was contested by Arsenal , champions of the 1947 ? 48 Football League and Manchester United , who beat Blackpool in the final of the 1947 ? 48 FA Cup . This was Arsenal 's eighth Charity Shield appearance to Manchester United 's third .

Watched by a crowd of over 30 @, @ 000 , Reg Lewis , Bryn Jones , and Ronnie Rooke each scored for the league champions inside the first 15 minutes . Manchester United responded by scoring twice before the half @-@ time break through Jack Rowley and Ronnie Burke . Lionel Smith 's own goal in the 53rd minute made the scoreline 4 ? 3 , and though United 's attack were dominant in the second half , there were no further goals . Arsenal were awarded the Shield by A.V. Alexander , the Minister of Defence . Gate receipts for the match came to a total of £ 4 @, @ 300 .

= = 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 . After a ten @-@ year absence due to the suspension of football during the Second World War , the Charity Shield made a return in 1948 .

Arsenal qualified for the 1948 FA Charity Shield as winners of the 1947 ? 48 Football League First Division . It was the club 's sixth league title and striker Ronnie Rooke scored 33 goals in the campaign to become the division 's top goalscorer . The other Charity Shield place went to Manchester United who beat Blackpool to win the final of the 1947 ? 48 FA Cup . Manchester United 's progress in the competition was unique as the club was drawn against teams from the First Division in every round . Their home ties were staged at three different grounds as Old Trafford was being repaired from the damage sustained in the Manchester Blitz .

This was Arsenal 's eighth Charity Shield appearance ; prior to the game they had won five Shields ( 1930 , 1931 , 1933 , 1934 , 1938 ) , and lost two ( 1935 , 1936 ) . By contrast Manchester United were undefeated in the Charity Shield ; the club won their previous two appearances , in 1908 and 1911 . Manchester United had beaten Arsenal 1 ? 0 the last time the two clubs met at Highbury , for a league fixture on 30 August 1948 ; Charlie Mitten scored the only goal of the match .

= = Match = =

= = = Summary = = =

Arsenal began the quicker of the two teams . Inside a minute , a miskick by Manchester United left back John Aston troubled his defence , and presented Reg Lewis and Rooke with shooting opportunities . After three minutes , Arsenal took the lead ; combination play from Jimmy Logie and Bryn Jones forced goalkeeper Jack Crompton out of his area , and ended with Jones hitting the ball high into an empty net . Lewis headed in Archie Macaulay 's cross from the right to double Arsenal 's lead , and the team scored their third almost immediately , when Rooke maneuvered past the United defence to shoot past Crompton .

United regrouped and scored immediately . Charging forward , John Anderson and Jack Rowley each shot wide , before Johnny Morris 's effort hit the post . The ball rebounded to Rowley , whose shot went in past goalkeeper George Swindin . United were in full ascendancy ? " Anderson and Warner were winning the ball in mid @-@ field , and bringing it through to their forwards [ ... ] , making the Arsenal defence feel the strain , " so said The Times football correspondent . In the 35th

minute however , Lewis scored his second goal of the match , beating Allenby Chilton to the ball first and going past Crompton . Five minutes before half @-@ time , United halved Arsenal 's lead ? a well @-@ worked move started by Carey in his own half was finished off by Burke .

Arsenal struggled to regain fluency in the second half , as their opponents dominated play . In the 53rd minute , United scored to make it 4 ? 3 ; Charlie Mitten 's flick in the area was diverted into the Arsenal net by Lionel Smith for an own goal . United fashioned further chances through Burke and Rowley , but for large periods of the second half the Arsenal defence stood firm . Jones ' headed goal was rule out for offside , after which the match descended into a contest between United 's attack and Arsenal 's defence . Jimmy Delaney came closest to equalising late on , when he darted forward and missed by inches .

= = = Details = = =

Source

= = Post @-@ match = =

A.V. Alexander , the Minister of Defence presented Arsenal with the Shield . Assessing the match the next day , Daily Express football correspondent John MacAdam wrote : " Charity begins at home , they say , and , by golly , it began at Highbury yesterday , for Arsenal were the luckiest team in the world to beat Manchester United 4 ? 3 in the F.A. Charity Shield match between the winners of the League and the Cup . " The Times correspondent assessed , " Arsenal won because they sneaked a commanding lead of three goals , before Manchester had realised they were in London , " and concluded the piece with the sentence " It had been a game worthy of the occasion and of two fine clubs . " Gate receipts for the match totalled £ 4 @,@ 300 .

Manchester United ended the season as runners @-@ up to Portsmouth in the Football League First Division , and reached the semi @-@ final stage of the FA Cup . Arsenal progressed no further than the fourth round of the cup competition , and finished sixth in the league . The two clubs next faced each other in the Charity Shield in 1993 , when Manchester United won the inaugural Premier League title , and Arsenal were FA Cup winners in the 1992 ? 93 season .