

= 2006 FA Community Shield =

The 2006 FA Community Shield was a football match played between Liverpool and Chelsea on 13 August 2006 at the Millennium Stadium , Cardiff , the annual FA Community Shield contested between the winners of the Premier League and FA Cup . Chelsea were appearing in the competition for the sixth time , while Liverpool were making their 21st appearance . It was the final Community Shield to be held at the Millennium Stadium following the reconstruction of Wembley Stadium .

Chelsea qualified for the match as a result of winning the 2005 ? 06 Premier League , which was their second successive league championship . Liverpool entered the competition after winning the 2005 ? 06 FA Cup against West Ham United . The match finished 3 ? 3 and was decided by a penalty shootout , which Liverpool won 3 ? 2 .

Watched by a crowd of 56 @, @ 275 , Liverpool took the lead early in the first half when John Arne Riise scored . Chelsea responded when new signing Andriy Shevchenko scored before the end of the half . Both sides had chances to win the match in the second half , but a Peter Crouch goal late in the half ensured Liverpool won the match 2 ? 1 , to win the Shield for the 15th time .

= = 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 sixth and final time ; it took over as the venue for the event while Wembley Stadium underwent a six @-@ year renovation between 2001 and 2006 .

Chelsea qualified for the Community Shield by winning the Premier League ? their second successive championship . They finished eight points clear of second @-@ placed Manchester United . Chelsea beat Liverpool in both their league meetings during the season . A 4 ? 1 win away at Liverpool 's home ground Anfield , was followed by a 2 ? 0 victory in the corresponding fixture at their home ground , Stamford Bridge . The sides met in the semi @-@ final of the FA Cup , a match Liverpool won 2 ? 1 to progress to the final . A 3 ? 2 victory by Liverpool in a penalty shootout , after the 2006 FA Cup Final finished 3 ? 3 with West Ham United , ensured the club 's participation in the match .

Chelsea were appearing in the Community Shield for the sixth time and were the holders , after beating Arsenal 2 ? 1 in the 2005 edition . Including this victory they had won the competition three times , in 1955 and 2000 . In contrast , Liverpool were appearing in their 21st match in the competition . They had won eight outright ( 1966 , 1976 , 1979 , 1980 , 1982 , 1988 , 1989 , 2001 ) , shared five ( 1964 , 1965 , 1974 , 1977 , 1986 , 1990 ) and lost six ( 1922 , 1971 , 1983 , 1984 , 1992 , 2002 ) . This was the first meeting between the two sides in the competition .

The match would normally be the first of the season for both clubs , however as a result of finishing third in the Premier League , Liverpool were entered into third qualifying round for the UEFA Champions League . They won the first of two legs against Israeli team Maccabi Haifa 2 ? 1 , courtesy of goals from new signings Craig Bellamy and Mark González . In addition to the signings of Bellamy and González , Liverpool had also purchased defender Fábio Aurélio and midfielder Jermaine Pennant . Chelsea had also brought in a number of players , despite winning successive league titles . Foremost among them was striker Andriy Shevchenko , who signed for a club record £ 30 million from A.C. Milan , Manager José Mourinho was adamant that he would fit into the club 's style of play : " Everybody knows him as a player , tactically he can play in the Chelsea system no doubt . "

Chelsea were expected to start their new signings Shevchenko and Michael Ballack , however they would be without midfielder Claude Makélélé , who had been allowed extra time to recover from playing for France in the 2006 FIFA World Cup . They would be without goalkeeper Petr ?ech and

midfielder Joe Cole , who had knee and shoulder injuries respectively . Liverpool were expected to be without striker Robbie Fowler and defender Aurélio for the match , who were suffering from knee and calf injuries respectively . Manager Rafael Benítez stated ' we would rather wait until next weekend ' , before playing the pair .

= = Match = =

= = = Summary = = =

Chelsea lined up in a 4 @-@ 3 @-@ 3 formation while Liverpool , who kicked off the match , lined up in a 4 @-@ 4 @-@ 2 . Within nine minutes Liverpool had taken the lead . Defender John Arne Riise ran with the ball from his own half and hit a shot from 25 yards ( 23 m ) , which beat Chelsea goalkeeper Carlo Cudicini . Chelsea midfielder Ballack received the first booking of the match in the 7th minute after he kicked Liverpool midfielder Momo Sissoko , and his partner Frank Lampard was given a yellow card eight minutes later for kicking Boudewijn Zenden . Liverpool almost extended their lead in the 22nd minute , when Paulo Ferreira 's pass to Cudicini caught him unaware , however the ball went wide of the Chelsea goal and out for a corner . Chelsea made the first substitution of the match in the 26th minute when debutant Salomon Kalou replaced the injured Ballack . Cudicini kept the score at 1 ? 0 in the 42nd minute , when he made saves to deny González and then a subsequent Peter Crouch shot . Chelsea scored two minutes later when Lampard passed the ball cross @-@ field to striker Shevchenko who controlled the ball on his chest and shot past Liverpool goalkeeper Pepe Reina to level the score at 1 ? 1 .

The first chance of the second half fell to Liverpool , but midfielder Zenden sent his shot wide of the Chelsea goal . The first substitution of the half came in the 54th minute , when Chelsea replaced Geremi with Wayne Bridge . A minute later , they had two chances to take the lead . Reina saved a shot by Didier Drogba and from the resulting corner , he saved a Shevchenko header . Liverpool made their first substitutions of the match minutes when Aurélio , Steven Gerrard and Xabi Alonso replaced González , Zenden and Pennant respectively . Alonso received a yellow card two minutes after coming on for a challenge on Michael Essien . Two more substitutions were made in the coming minutes with Chelsea replacing Arjen Robben with Lassana Diarra and Bellamy replacing Luis García for Liverpool . Diarra was shown a yellow card soon after for a foul on Alonso . The resulting free @-@ kick saw Alonso pass the ball to Aurélio , but his subsequent pass to Bellamy was blocked .

Chelsea had the best of the chances after this , with Shevchenko controlling a long pass with his chest before passing to Kalou , but his subsequent attempt went wide of the Liverpool goal . Then two minutes later Shaun Wright @-@ Phillips , who had replaced Drogba , ran down the righthand side of the pitch . He passed the ball to Kalou , but he was unable to pass to Shevchenko in the Liverpool penalty area , after being blocked by the Liverpool defence . Minutes later , Liverpool took the lead when Bellamy advanced down the left hand side of the pitch with the ball , his pass found Crouch , who headed into the Chelsea goal to make it 2 ? 1 . The lead was almost extended minutes later , as a Gerrard pass found Aurélio in the Chelsea penalty area , but his shot was saved by Cudicini . Chelsea had a final chance in stoppage time from a Lampard free @-@ kick , but the ball was cleared from the Liverpool penalty area by Sissoko .

= = = Details = = =

= = = Statistics = = =

= = Post @-@ match = =

Liverpool manager Benítez was confident that victory in the match would provide his side with a boost ahead of their opening match of the 2006 ? 07 Premier League with Sheffield United : " This will give us a lot of confidence I am sure , to play one of the best sides in the world and to beat them , this should give us more confidence going into what will be an interesting season . " He also defended his decision to players such as Gerrard and Alonso on the bench : " It was my idea to start with the players that had the most fitness and have played the most minutes . Then I wanted to bring the other players on towards the end . It worked and it showed that we have a great squad ? better than last season . " Crouch , scorer of the winning goal , was also confident the result would boost the Liverpool squad : " There is a bit of rivalry between the sides and it is great to get an early one over them . Make no bones about it , this is a big game to win and it certainly could give us a psychological edge this season . "

Chelsea manager Mourinho was primarily concerned with the fitness of his squad in the aftermath of the match , in particular Ballack , who was substituted with an injury early in the match : " He had a kick in the muscle and he couldn 't run but I hope he will be back soon , we have quite a few players not in condition and we need players back , so I hope it 's not a big deal . " He felt that the fitness of the two squads was the decisive factor in the match : " Today our bench was not very good , with some kids , Liverpool could inject fresh blood at the same time as some of my players became really tired . They were broken . They were in better condition than us , you could see the difference between Frank Lampard and Sissoko . " Mourinho was also unconcerned about his team 's form heading into the start of the season : " Liverpool had more intensity and pace , qualities that make a team better . They had that and we didn 't . We had a big percentage of the ball possession , but Liverpool defended with intensity and looked dangerous when they counter @-@ attacked . I keep saying they are a difficult team to beat and they can go to every game with an ambition to win . They are a good team but over 10 months of competition we will be there . "