

= Bank Street ( football ground ) =

Bank Street , known for a time as Bank Lane , was a multi @-@ purpose stadium in Clayton , Manchester , England . It was mostly used for football matches and was the second home ground of Manchester United Football Club ( then known as Newton Heath Football Club ) , after North Road , which they left in 1893 . The stadium had a capacity of around 50 @,@ 000 , but the club moved to Old Trafford in 1910 because club owner John Henry Davies believed he could not sufficiently expand the ground .

The stadium was in poor repair towards the end of its life and , shortly after the club moved out to Old Trafford , the main stand at Bank Street blew down in a storm . The site is now occupied by the car park of the Manchester Velodrome , with a plaque on a house wall on Bank Street indicating the presence of the former ground . The site is close to the City of Manchester Stadium , the home of Manchester City Football Club .

= = History = =

= = = Early years = = =

Also known as Bank Lane , the ground was located on Bank Street in the Manchester suburb of Clayton , opposite the junction with Ravensbury Street and between the railway line and the Albion Chemical works . Known locally as the Bradford and Clayton athletic ground , it was owned by the Bradford and Clayton Athletic Company . After Newton Heath F.C. ( who became Manchester United in 1902 ) were evicted from their old ground at North Road by the Manchester Deans and Canons , who believed it to be inappropriate for the club to charge an entry fee to the ground , secretary A. H. Albut procured the use of the Bank Street ground in June 1893 . The site was let to the club for eight months of the year , with pre @-@ season training permitted on occasional nights in the summer . The ground was without stands , but , by the start of the 1893 ? 94 season , two stands had been built ; one spanning the full length of the pitch on one side and the other behind the goal at the " Bradford end " . At the opposite end , the " Clayton end " , the ground had been " built up , thousands thus being provided for " .

Newton Heath 's first Football League match at Bank Street was played against Burnley on 1 September 1893 , when 10 @,@ 000 people saw Alf Farman score a hat @-@ trick , Newton Heath 's only goals in a 3 ? 2 win . The remaining stands were completed for the following league game against Nottingham Forest three weeks later . However , Newton Heath did not fare well in their first season at the new ground and were unable to retain their First Division status at the end of the season , finishing bottom of the 16 @-@ team division . At the time , the condition of the Bank Street pitch was well documented . On one occasion during the 1894 ? 95 season , Walsall Town Swifts turned up at the ground and were greeted by what they regarded as a " toxic waste dump " . After lodging an official complaint about the pitch to the referee , they were finally persuaded to take to the field , only to be beaten 14 ? 0 ( unofficially , the biggest win in the history of Manchester United ) . However , the Football League ruled in favour of Walsall and the match was ordered to be replayed , though the result was not much better for the visitors the second time round , this time losing 9 ? 0 .

= = = Expansion = = =

In October 1895 , before the visit of Manchester City to Bank Street , the club purchased a 2 @,@ 000 @-@ capacity stand from Broughton Rangers Rugby League Club , and put up another stand on the " reserved side " ( as distinct from the " popular side " ) . However , weather restricted the attendance for the Manchester City match to just 12 @,@ 000 . Improvements to the ground were restricted by the running track that encompassed the pitch , which , by the request of the Bradford and Clayton Athletic Company , could not be removed . However , the ground came into the

possession of the club 's former president , Mr W. Crompton , in 1898 , allowing them to make whatever improvements to it they desired . One report in the Manchester Courier predicted the addition of a 25 @-@ foot ( 7 @.@ 6 m ) tall stand on the side adjacent to Bank Street itself , with a refreshment stand underneath , while the opposite stand would be moved back 6 yards ( 5 @.@ 5 m ) and raised up on brickwork by around 16 feet ( 4 @.@ 9 m ) , with the space underneath to be used as changing rooms for the players and referee and various rooms for the club committee .

These improvements would cost a lot of money , however , and this , in combination with the players ' ever @-@ increasing wages , sent the club into a period of financial turmoil . The club was presented with a winding up order in January 1902 , and Bank Street was on the brink of being repossessed until they were saved at the eleventh hour by a wealthy local brewer , John Henry Davies . He and four other men , among them club captain Harry Stafford , invested a total of £ 2 @,@ 000 in the club , now renamed Manchester United F.C. , and Davies himself paid £ 500 for the erection of a new 1 @,@ 000 @-@ seat stand at Bank Street . Within four years , the stadium had cover on all four sides , as well as the ability to hold approximately 50 @,@ 000 spectators , some of whom could watch from the viewing gallery atop the Main Stand . The stadium was even deemed worthy enough to host a match between Football League and Scottish Football League representative sides in April 1904 , hosting 25 @,@ 000 spectators as the Football League side won 2 ? 1 .

Around the turn of the 20th century , Newton Heath pulled off a significant coup by persuading the Manchester Evening News to set up an office at Bank Street . In response to Manchester City 's relationship with the Manchester Evening Chronicle , the Heathens ' believed that their partnership with the Evening News would cultivate interest in the club , while the newspaper would benefit from increased coverage of football .

= = = Departure and destruction = = =

Following Manchester United 's first league title in 1908 and the FA Cup a year later , it was decided that Bank Street was too restrictive for Davies ' ambition and the club would have to move to a new stadium five miles away in Old Trafford . Bank Street was sold to the Manchester Corporation for £ 5 @,@ 500 and leased back to the club on a monthly basis until the new stadium was complete . Bank Street played host to just 5 @,@ 000 spectators for its final game on 22 January 1910 ; a 5 ? 0 home win over Tottenham Hotspur . Manchester United 's move away from Bank Street seemed to have come at the perfect time , as , only a few days after the Tottenham match , one of the stands was blown down in a storm . The roof of the grandstand was blown across the road , landing on the houses opposite , and the stand was left in tatters . The Tottenham match was meant to have been played at Old Trafford , but building problems at the new ground had caused the fixture to revert to Bank Street . Despite the destruction of the Bank Street End stand , the club 's reserve team continued to use the ground for matches until the expiry of the lease on 1 January 1912 . The remaining timber at the site was then sold to Keyley Bros. for £ 275 . The site had various industrial uses for the next 80 years , until it was cleared for inclusion in the new Manchester Velodrome in the early 1990s . The actual site occupied by the stadium now serves as the Velodrome car park , while a red plaque attached to a house opposite marks the site as part of United 's history .