

DOUBLE HAT-TRICK HEROES

From known information, four players have scored six goals in a single match in the history of the club. With no historical records maintained at the club the match information we have today has been researched through newspapers. In the early days of the club few column inches were devoted to football in contrast to cycling which seemed to be the dominant sport in the Macclesfield area with many more column inches devoted to this activity. It is thought that football matches were played for which there are no reports and in many instances the names of goalscorers were not reported and even the record wins of 15-0 on 6 February 1886 against Chester St Mary's and on 12 November 1887 against Barnton Rovers, both matches in the Cheshire Senior Cup, only warranted the reporting of the score with no report.

The four players who have scored a double hat-trick are Albert Valentine, Syd Carter, Johnnie Mullington and Andy Scott, two of whom hold all-time club records.

Albert Valentine

Before signing for Macclesfield, Valentine had played for Southport, Cardiff City, Wigan Borough, Chester and Crewe Alexandra. He was ever-present during his single season (1933-34) at the Moss Rose scoring a total of 83 goals in all competitions setting a record for the most goals scored by a player in a single season, a record which remains in the 21st century and one which looks unbreakable. Also, he is only one of two players (the other was Reginald Forrester) to score a hat-trick in each of three consecutive matches.

Valentine's double hat-trick came in the 7-2 home victory against arch rivals Altrincham on 24 February 1934 and was reported in the local newspaper under the heading 'Valentine's Great Feat, Altrincham Overcome.'

The first goal came from a move started by Jimmy Naylor when he dribbled past an Altrincham player and then passed the ball to Jack Roscoe who placed the ball in the centre allowing Valentine to strike home.

It was Len Butt who doubled Macclesfield's lead when he scored the second goal.

Heywood, the Altrincham goalkeeper, kicked the ball out which was chased down by Macclesfield's Billy Owen, the winger despatching the ball back into the centre where Valentine was waiting to head home for goal number three.

At this stage of the match, the Macclesfield reporter wrote that he had never seen Macclesfield play so well. Macclesfield continued to press, Stott having a volley saved and then a shot charged down.

Butt swung the ball to Roscoe who drew the Altrincham 'keeper out at the same time placing the ball to the ever alert Valentine who shot through the defence striking the inside of the post and into the goal for goal number four and Valentine's hat-trick.

Just before half-time Altrincham pulled a goal back to take the score to 4-1 at the interval.

At the start of the second half Altrincham rearranged their line-up which must have had some effect as it was a further 20 minutes before Macclesfield scored again. Naylor found

Valentine just outside the penalty area, he controlled the ball and struck a 25 yard shot which sped past the Altrincham 'keeper for goal number five.

A clever left-sided move involving Naylor, Roscoe and Owen provided some exciting football, Owen's cross from the wing beating the Altrincham defence where Valentine was well positioned to score the sixth goal.

Altrincham then almost scored when a forward latched on to a poor back pass but the Macclesfield goalkeeper Dick Williams saved the resultant shot.

For the seventh goal and Valentines double hat-trick, the ball was despatched down the centre of the pitch, Valentine collecting. His first shot rebounded off the 'keeper but Valentine made no mistake firmly striking home his second shot.

With score standing at 7-1 Macclesfield eased off the pressure which allowed the visitors to score a second goal, the match ending 7-2.

Despite Valentine's goal scoring record and a total of 142 league goals scored in the season, Macclesfield could only finish runners-up in the Cheshire League five points behind Wigan Athletic who scored a total of 111 goals, Macclesfield having been champions the previous two seasons.

Syd Carter

Before signing for Macclesfield in 1937 Carter had played for Sheffield United and Wolverhampton Wanderers. Carter was another player who only remained at the Moss Rose for a single season, but he was a prolific scorer netting 47 goals in 45 appearances in all competitions making him the top scorer for the 1937-38 season.

Carter's double hat-trick was scored in the 8-4 home win against Hurst on 2 October 1937.

Hurst were quickest out of the starting blocks scoring in the 10th and 14th minutes to take a 2-0 lead. But only a minute later Macauley pulled a goal back for Macclesfield.

Macauley was in the action again when he struck the ball goalwards but Carter headed out to winger Ted Marcroft whose shot was blocked by the Hurst 'keeper, Carter pouncing on the rebound to score the equalising goal.

Three minutes later it was Macauley again in the thick of the action when he dropped the ball right in front of the goal, Carter gained possession under pressure from the Hurst defence and struck home to score his second goal and take the score to 3-2.

Macclesfield's fourth goal was scored by James Martin following a pass from Carter. Shortly after, the visitors added their third goal to take the score to 4-3.

Macclesfield's next goal was a gift from Hurst's centre back who miskicked the ball straight to Tommy Butler who passed the ball to Carter who was on hand to fire home to score his hat-trick after 39 minutes

But the scoring was not finished in this half with Hurst netting again shortly after to take the score to 5-4 in favour of Macclesfield. By now neither team's defence was playing at all well as indicated by the score line.

Martin made an accurate pass to Sammy Dackins who, in turn, passed the ball to Carter, the centre forward rounding Boothman to place the ball in the back of the net.

To complete the half Carter moved forward to collect a bouncing ball which he could not control at first but managed to get sufficient purchase to strike home to take the score to 7-4 at half time.

With 11 goals already scored, the second half would have to be something special to match the first half performance. Understandably there was no way that there would be same excitement especially as Macclesfield took it easy in the second half although Martin had a goal disallowed for off-side.

Macauley suffered an injury but continued to play and he started the attacking move from which Carter scored the eighth goal to complete his double hat-trick, but before the match finished there was time for one more scoring opportunity, Martin passing to Carter who shot wide.

And so this match finished with an 8-4 victory to Macclesfield. Despite Carter appearing on the score sheet on a regular basis Macclesfield could only complete the season in 15th position in the Cheshire League.

Johnnie Mullington

During his time in the RAF Mullington represented RAF Cyprus and Imperial Services Cyprus when he toured the Middle East. Initially he played for Macclesfield Reserves and after scoring a bagful of goals he was promoted to the senior side where he went on to score 56 goals in 82 appearances. The highlight of his career came when he scored all eight goals in the home match against Witton Albion on 15 May 1963, a club record which still stands today.

For the final matches of the 1962-63 season centre-forward Johnnie Mullington and goalkeeper Johnnie Ikin had been promoted from the reserves, both turning in a brilliant performance in the penultimate match of the season.

Mullington gave Macclesfield the lead seconds after the kick-off when he scored from Frank Boyer's overhead cross. Macclesfield controlled this match with attempts on goal from John Massey, Bowyer, Dickie Cunliffe and Mullington with just one shot from Witton.

His second goal came on 25 minutes from close range when he converted a ball from the left. A 40-yard run culminated with a low shot gave Mullington his hat-trick. But before half-time Witton had a couple of chances with a long-range shot from centre-half Murray, and a hard rising shot from Buckley which Ikin did well to save. At half time the score remained 3-0 to Macclesfield.

Soon after the restart Mullington was on the score sheet again, cleverly beating the Witton defence and then driving the ball along the ground into the net well out of the goalkeeper's reach. Shots from both sides came to nothing, Ikin continuing to have an excellent game.

Defender Johnnie Bailey sent a long ball up field, Mullington collecting and quickly driving the ball home for goal number five. For the sixth goal Mullington ran in from the left and struck the ball into the goalmouth where, on the day, it was reported that the ball was

turned into his own net by Murray. However, at a later date this goal was credited to Mullington.

Mullington could have made it seven soon after but his shot hit the angle of the goal. The seventh followed, Pat Connolly providing the opening for Mullington to despatch the ball home with pace. Macclesfield continued their pressure on the Witton goal with both Massey and Mullington being denied before Mullington rounded off the match with a brilliant eighth goal.

At the end of the match Mullington was mobbed on his way to the dressing room and was given a great ovation which he thoroughly deserved.

Andy Scott

Scott joined Macclesfield straight from school proving to be a strong player in the reserve team, breaking into the senior team in the 1974-75 season. Also played for Nantwich and Sydney Olympics before returning to Macclesfield for a second spell and later played for Winsford United. In more recent years, having sold a business offered to make a financial investment in the football club which was accepted by the current owner leading to his appointment as a director then vice chairman and is currently a member of the Operations Committee responsible for the running of the club on behalf of the owner.

In the home Floodlit League match on 6 November 1974 against Droylsden in front of 553 spectators Scott scored all six goals in the 6-2 victory. The Floodlit League was open to clubs in Cheshire and Lancashire.

The match report is headed *'Super Scott – that's six-goal Andy!'* the reporter writing *'If the crowd, players and referee still thought they were dreaming long after the final whistle blew in this North West Floodlit League game on Wednesday it is little wonder. For if Andy Scott's feat of scoring all six goals after starting the game in midfield had come straight out of a kid's comic it would have taken some believing.'*

After 30 minutes Stuart Hutchinson was replaced by Willie Stevenson and Scott moved up to centre forward to herald his brilliant performance as follows:

32 minutes – Stevenson crossed the ball to the far post where Keith Eccleshare headed the ball across the goal, Scott meeting the ball to head home.

42 minutes – described as the best goal of all six. Scott took the ball 30 yards out and crashed a magnificent left-footer into the net.

47 minutes – Scott's shot was half saved by Leggatt the Droylsden 'keeper, Scott slotting home the rebound to score his hat-trick

57 minutes – Geoff Collier made a fine run, he hit a powerful shot which was going wide but the ball hit Scott's thigh redirecting it into the net.

62 minutes – A great run by Graham Heys drew the 'keeper allowing Heys to round him before sending a high ball to Scott who was waiting in the centre to head home.

85 minutes – Bruce Birtwistle ran to the bye-line, squared the ball back to Geoff Collier who could have shot for goal himself but unselfishly passed back to Scott who completed his double hat-trick.

The report makes no mention of the two goals which were scored by Droylsden in a match which Macclesfield dominated, the game finishing 6-2.

With emphasis on defence in the modern-day game, the incidence of high scoring matches is much reduced and it will be interesting to see whether or not any player in the future will be able to emulate the Silkmen's four double hat-trick heroes

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