

Newcastle V Stoke

Ten tons of straw had done its job. Despite sub-Arctic weather, the pitch at St. James's Park was in good shape for the Fifth Round Cup Battle, ~~and only the fans remained frozen.~~

Here was the answer to the Football League proposals: the biggest crowd of the season cheered the proud cup-holders, Newcastle, as they came out to battle for a place in the last eight.

~~There was~~ <sup>job</sup> encouraging support for their rivals, too! over four thousand fans had travelled from the Potteries to cheer on the Second Division side - as they tackled the toughest ~~task~~ of the round. All eyes on the centre circle and first blood to Stoke, as Ken Thompson wins the toss.

So the cupholders (in black shorts) kicked off - and away they go - (spurred on by that famous "Geordie" roar), taking another hurdle in their stride for a return visit to Wembley.

~~Occasionally, Stoke~~

Occasionally, Stoke launched an attack: but on the whole, the first half honours belonged to the Magpies. ~~it was no surprise when Curry, put~~ <sup>with a fierce drive and then a head!</sup> them ahead - with a fierce drive.

Back came Stoke <sup>with</sup> some skilful touches. The home defence, however, stayed on top, and Newcastle should have set up a commanding lead.

The second half - Stoke kick off, <sup>- determined to get that equaliser!</sup> and suddenly, they launched a series of blistering attacks. Newcastle were reeling and when King <sup>THEN KING TAKES</sup> took a pass

from Coleman - Stoke <sup>one</sup> were level!

~~After~~ After being hemmed in for long periods, Newcastle made a lightning raid and Mitchell finished it off. Newcastle 2 Stoke 1. Still Stoke fought on, and with secondsto go - a Thompson header hit the bar. Yes, it was as close as that. A couple of inches had kept Newcastle on the road to Wembley.