

CARDIFF CITY 0-4

NPOWER CHAMPIONSHIP Game 13 Monday October 25, 7.45pm Elland Road **Attendance** 20,747 (834 Cardiff)

Goals Bothroyd (22), Chopra (51), Bothroyd (56), Naylor (60) **Referee** Michael Oliver (Northumberland) **Booked** McCartney (Leeds)

A bit of a capitulation? Well, yes and no. Despite the obvious gulf in class we competed well for periods of the game, and at times, we were unlucky.

You're joking, right? No! We started quite brightly and it was an even contest until Bruce and Schmeichel contrived to allow an aimless punt upfield to land at the feet of Bothroyd, who simply dispatched it into an empty net. Soon after Bothroyd should have seen a straight red for a calf-high lunge on Becchio, before a clearly offside



TRAGIC NUMBER

26

Years since we've beaten the Bluebirds.

Chopra dispatched Cardiff's second. But then...

We capitulated? Well, yes... in painful fashion. Heads dropped and the timid concession of the third and fourth goals smacked of an already fragile confidence shattered. This was reminiscent of a couple of our Arsenal home games in the early 2000s when it appeared that nobody in white could do anything to stop the opposition scoring at will. Fortunately, Cardiff presented a sympathetic side, and the remaining 30 minutes were played out to a funereal and rapidly emptying Elland Road. A brutal defeat; Cardiff's quality was evident in all areas of the pitch, as were our deficiencies.

Black comedy moment Ever-popular Bellamy selling four dummies to Connolly in the 10 minutes before half-time, and he bought every one.

Best Leeds player? Howson and Faye made a sprightly start but faded. Ramon Nunez came on for a late debut and

briefly created a dim spark in the gloom.

In a nutshell That increasingly familiar mid-week evening feeling.

Jon Howe



Cardiff (4-4-2) Heaton; McNaughton, Gyepes, Hudson, Naylor; Burke, Whittingham, Olofinjana, Bellamy; Bothroyd, Chopra (Keogh 76). Subs not used: Marshall, Rae, Blake, Wildig, McPhail, Koumas.

HEAD TO HEAD

Leeds	Cardiff
13 Attempts on goal	17
5 Attempts on target	12



Above: Ramon Nunez.
Left: Andy Faye.

SCUNTHORPE UNITED 4-1

NPOWER CHAMPIONSHIP Game 14 Saturday October 20, 3pm Glanford Park

Attendance 8,122 (2,177 Leeds) **Goals** Gradel (8), Byrne (27), Howson (60), Howson (74), Howson (75)

Referee Russell Booth (Nottinghamshire) **Booked** none (Scunthorpe); Connolly (Leeds)

Ups and downs? Yep, strap yourselves in for a bumpy ride. On the roller coaster of life as a Leeds fan, this was a very steep climb.

It didn't start off too well, though, did it? No, in the first minute Kasper nervously scuffed a shallow kick straight to the onrushing Dagnall and somehow Bruce toe-ended the ball over Schmeichel. We were saved by loanee Andy O'Brien hacking it clear from the open goal with his very first touch in a Leeds shirt. It all looked agonisingly familiar. We recovered and Howson played Gradel in for a neat finish – but

then Byrne equalised cheaply, winning a header from a corner. A scrappy and fairly even first half.

So what changed then? We imposed ourselves in midfield and, particularly when

Johnson replaced Faye, were sharper in the tackle and showed more desire.

Cometh the hour? Literally. Step up Jonny Howson. His first was a sweet volley when a loose ball fell to him on 60 minutes. The second was a far post header from a deep Gradel cross, and then a minute later... dreamland. Becchio squared to Jonny who controlled and finished with impeccable composure from 20 yards. Jonny also had three other decent chances and we saw the game out with Schmeichel largely untroubled.

Best Leeds player? Who else? Often criticised for disappearing in games, today Jonny was everywhere. Special mention also to Gradel and both full-backs.

In a nutshell Clawing back that goal difference!

Jon Howe



Scunthorpe (4-4-2) Warner; Byrne, Raynes, Mirfin (Canavan h-t), Nolan; Togwell, Woolford, O'Connor, Wright (Forte 76); Dagnall (Thompson 68), Sears. Subs not used: Slocombe, McClenahan, Collins, Grant.

HEAD TO HEAD

Scunny	Leeds
7 Attempts on goal	20
3 Attempts on target	15



Above: Jonny Howson.
Left: Andy O'Brien.