

## CHELTHENHAM TOWN 1-0

**COCA-COLA LEAGUE ONE Game 16** Whaddon Road Saturday November 1, 3pm **Attendance** 5,726 (1,804 Leeds) **Goal** Becchio (7) **Referee** Fred Graham (Essex) **Booked** Diallo (Cheltenham); Delph (Leeds)

**Unchanged even after that Southend result?** Surprising – as we looked to end a run of four consecutive away defeats. But we started brightly – Frazer Richardson forcing a save even before the locals had had time to finish their first chorus of “You’re not famous any more...”

**And an early goal to follow?** Yup, Fraze was on hand minutes later to fire the perfect cross for the unmarked Luciano Becchio to head home his ninth of the season from six yards out. Seemingly unsure where to do his Superman celebration the Argentinian comically ran to the centre-circle and hugged Jermaine Beckford instead.

**How was Delph?** Leeds United’s answer to Lewis Hamilton twice put Becks in on goal first half and had a decent effort himself from distance – but sadly when the latter was palmed out to him, Jonny Howson found the carpark not the net.

**So not wholly convincing?** We had a few wobbles in the second half

but Casper Ankergrren stopped three decent efforts and Cheltenham fluffed their other openings. Andy Robinson lived things up, came close twice, and Becchio maybe should have scored after a mazy run through the penalty box... But yes, at the death – with smoke from some early doors bonfire looking like some half-baked attempt to get the game fogged off – they still made us nervous.

**Best Leeds player** Richardson. Solid in defence, lively in attack.

**In a nutshell** Phew. Good to see the back of that run.

Nicholas Baird



Above: Fabian Delph.

Below: Matchwinner Luciano Becchio.

MAGIC NUMBER

5

Fifth time lucky – a win away at last!

### HEAD TO HEAD

Cheltenham	Leeds
9	Attempts on goal 22
4	Attempts on target 11



## NORTHAMPTON TOWN 1-1

**FA CUP First Round** Elland Road Friday November 7, 7.45pm **Attendance** 9,531 **Goals** McGleish (9), Robinson (37 pen) **Referee** Michael Oliver (Northumberland) **Booked** White (Leeds); Coke, Holt, Jackman (Northampton) **Sent-off** Coke (26)

**Hmm, the stats suggest we made a mess of this...** Yes, the stats would be correct: 66 per cent of possession, nine corners to their one... And the fact that our goal came from a dubious penalty was a travesty. We fell behind

to Northampton’s only serious attack of the first half – after loose and hesitant defending.

**Didn’t we play against 10 men for an hour, as well?** Yes, I was hoping you wouldn’t mention that. Coke was sent off for two cynical challenges, one on Parker, the other on Delph. No argument.

**So Northampton set up camp in their own half after that?** Not only did they set up camp, they had the gas stoves out and were frying sausages well before half-time. The rest of the game was a procession of Leeds attacks, but where the approach play was nice, the quality in the final third was lacking. Many of the 33 attempts were speculative and from distance – but at least two of them did hit the post.

**Comedy moment?** Keeper Fielding needlessly parrying a shot, going well wide, straight into the path of Becchio – who then skewed his shot wide of the empty net, despite the whole ground

thinking it had gone in. Keystone Cops is the best way to describe it.

**Best Leeds player?** Once again Robinson always looked the most likely to create something, and he took his penalty with cool aplomb.

**In a nutshell?** A wasted opportunity to progress.

Jon Howe

**Northampton** (4-4-2) Fielding; Crowe, Hughes, Doig (Dyer 12), Jackman; Gilligan, Coke, McGleish (Bignall 53), Holt; Constantine (Davis 73), Dolman

TRAGIC NUMBER

13

Thousand people less than last home match – watching on TV!

### HEAD TO HEAD

Leeds	Northampton
33	Attempts on goal 5
14	Attempts on target 2 (+2) (hit woodwork)



Celebrating the equaliser.