

My Match Report



Team 1:	Blackpool FC	Team 2:	Cardiff City
Venue & Date:	Wembley Stadium, London, England. 22 nd May 2010		
Goal scorers & Times	<div> <div>Cardiff:</div> <div>Michael Chopra 8:21</div> <div>Joe Ledley 36:51</div> </div> <div> <div>Blackpool:</div> <div>Charlie Adam 12:51</div> <div>Gary Taylor-Fletcher 39:49</div> <div>Brett Ormerod 45+0:13</div> </div>		
Match details:	<p><u>Brilliant Blackpool Promoted to the Premier League</u></p> <p>On a bright boiling day in London 82, 244 fans, with 40000 of those being Blackpool fans, flocked to Wembley to watch the Championship Play-Off final between Blackpool FC and Cardiff City FC. The winner of the game would be promoted to the promised land of the Premier league with away trips to the Emirates stadium, Anfield, Old Trafford and Stamford Bridge.</p> <p>Both sides came into the Play-Off final in exceptional form. Cardiff arrived into the final having only lost twice in 13 games losing to Derby and Leicester City in the second leg of the play-off semi-final. Blackpool on the other hand came into the final with 8 wins from 10 after losing to champions Newcastle and drawing to Bristol City. With both sides playing attacking football, the game looked to be an entertaining encounter. Cardiff had scored 73 goals in the 46-game league season where Blackpool had scored 74 in the 46 games. Cardiff lined up in a 442 whereas Blackpool lined up in a 433.</p> <p>The game started quickly with the ball zipping up and down the pitch. Blackpool help the possession early on looking to move the ball around and find the spaces. Cardiff held firm though quite often looking for Jay Bothroyd or Michael Chopra when they needed to get rid of the ball.</p> <p>In just the 3rd minute of the match, an Alex Baptiste header landed at the feet of Cardiff's top scorer, Peter Whittingham. Whittingham played a nice one two with Jay Bothroyd before putting a low cross in and finding Michael Chopra who flicked the ball onto the bar after getting across Ian Evatt at the near post.</p>		

However, Cardiff didn't have to wait long before finding a breakthrough. A clearance from Matt Gilks in the Blackpool goal was won in the air by Mark Hudson. McPhail won the second ball finding Joe Ledley who found Peter Whittingham. Whittingham saw Chopra, who's intelligent movement got him back onside and into a pocket of space in between Evatt and Baptiste. A beautifully weighted pass sent Chopra through on goal who finished from the edge of the box into the bottom left corner.

Not once did Blackpool's heads drop though! And in the 12th minute a David Vaughan had a ball going into the box that struck a raised arm of Steven McPhail around 25 yards out from goal. Charlie Adam went and stood over the ball. Charlie Adam then hit the ball sweetly as the ball flew over Cardiff's four-man wall and into the top right-hand corner. Unlike the Cardiff players who celebrated in front of the opposition fans, Charlie and the rest of the Pool players ran back to celebrate in front of the jubilant sea of Tangerine.

Not soon after the equaliser, the first substitution of the match took place. Jay Bothroyd, who'd been carrying a knock for around 10 minutes had to make way. He was replaced by 21-year-old Kelvin Etuhu, on loan at Cardiff from Manchester City. The young striker was yet to score all season in his loan.

Blackpool fans showing their support being the loudest of the two sets of fans, with Blackpool dominating possession on the pitch. The style that Ian Holloway had started to implement at Blackpool when he was appointed a year and one day before the play off final.

Blackpool continued to dominate for a while until, against the run of play, Cardiff scored to go in front. A throw in taken quickly ended up at the feet at Kevin McNaughton. His looping ball came to Joe Ledley who played a first-time pass to Peter Whittingham. Ledley instantly made a run in between Seamus Coleman and Alex Baptiste before calmly finishing past Matt Gilks into the bottom right corner. It was a nicely worked goal but again the Cardiff plays celebrated right in front of the Blackpool fans. Despite going behind against the run of play. Blackpool heads did not drop!

Blackpool picked themselves up and got back into the game rapidly. Blackpool moved the ball well before it landed at Gary Taylor-Fletcher's feet and he struck it on the half volley onto the post. Cardiff scrambled the rebound away but conceded a corner. From that corner Blackpool deservedly drew level. The corner was whipped to the near post where Cardiff keeper David Marshall got his gloves on it, but not enough. DJ Campbell flicked the ball towards goal which was parried out to Ian Evatt whose acrobatic

effort was cleared off the line, but Gary Taylor-Fletcher bravely stuck his head in towards a boot and nodded the ball in. Straight away he turned and ran back to celebrate with the Blackpool fans. After this goal, the Cardiff players heads dropped. Their goal was already against the run of play so now they would have to do it again.

Pool weren't done for the half yet though. Seamus Coleman came forward with the ball playing it into DJ Campbell. He held the ball up nicely and got the ball onto his left foot but unfortunately slipped. However, he managed to get the ball to Brett Ormerod. Brett was first to the ball before David Marshall and managed to squeeze the ball in. For the first time, Blackpool led against Cardiff.

Just before half time, Cardiff had the ball in the net but it was ruled out for offside. A Peter Whittingham free kick was delivered into the box which was flicked on by Mark Hudson before being tapped in at the back post by an offside Darcy Blake.

Shortly after a very eventful first half was brought to a close by referee Andre Mariner, and a chance to breathe for everyone in attendance.

Seven and a half minutes after the second half kicked off, Blackpool were forced into a change of their own. Gary Taylor-Fletcher had picked up an ankle injury and he could no longer continue. On in his place came Ben Burgess, a striker who had made 125 appearances before coming on.

In the 56th minute, Chopra nearly dragged Cardiff level. A bouncing ball which proved difficult for Alex Baptiste to deal with allowed Burke to find Chopra who smashed the ball off the bar. The first time that Cardiff had looked like scoring since the start of the second half

After that action Chris Burke left the field to be replaced by Ross McCormack. Cardiff looking for something to get them back into the game.

Around 3 minutes later they were so nearly level. A Whittingham corner flicked on at the by Joe Ledley with the ball so nearly ending up in the far corner.

Bang on the hour mark, seconds after Cardiff nearly drew level, Blackpool boy Brett Ormerod departed the pitch to be replace by Swansea City loanee Stephen Dobbie. Blackpool looking to hang on by taking the game to Cardiff.

	<p>Matt Gilks was called into action in the 63rd minute when Kelvin Etuhu's shot was fired towards the top corner, but Matt Gilks did very well to deal with it.</p> <p>In the 73rd minute, Cardiff had another injury forced when Kevin McNaughton had to go off and was replaced by Anthony Gerrard.</p> <p>2 minutes later and Cardiff went oh so close again, with a ball floated into the box from Mark Kenndey spilled by Matt Gilks when Chopra jumped with him. Luckily for Blackpool the ball trundled wide.</p> <p>Time continued to tick by, but Blackpool continued to deal with everything that Cardiff had to throw at them. Blackpool in the dying embers took the ball to the corner to hold time up. The fourth officials board showed that there were 4 minutes of added time to play. A Joe Ledley header was saved comfortably by Gilks. Then around 40 seconds later, the energetic Barry Banan came on for David Vaughan.</p> <p>Ben Burgess couldn't quite pull the ball back to DJ Campbell or get a shot off with just 30 seconds left. Cardiff launched the ball forward, but Coleman was well positioned and headed the ball out. The ball then was put in the box, but it was claimed well by Matt Gilks. He held the ball before getting rid of it and then the roar from the Tangerine army was immense. The joy that everyone felt in that stadium from the youngest children to the oldest was indescribable. 40 years on since Blackpool were last promoted with Fred Pickering and others, there would again be Tangerine at Manchester United, Liverpool and others.</p> <p>From being behind twice, our lads never gave up even in 41.5 Degree Celsius weather, they still gave their all for the Tangerine. The joy showed from the trophy lift with Charlie Adam and Jason Euell lifting the trophy and the celebrations in front of the branded promotion stand. But still, they were gracious in victory, with many of the players consoling the understandably devastated Cardiff players.</p>		
Man of the Match:	Keith Southern - Blackpool's number 4 - Ran his socks off and showed his love for the club, hardworking all afternoon and wasn't afraid to get stuck into a challenge if it needed it.		
Final Score:	Blackpool 3 – 2 Cardiff City 2		
Report written by:	Isaac Selley	Age:	14