

ROBERTSON SCORES THEN... Reds stunned by Williams

JOHN LAWSON at the City Ground

A 52ND minute penalty by John Robertson relieved Nottingham Forest's Cup frustrations in their third round tie against Bristol Rovers, here this afternoon.

Throughout the first half Rovers had produced a spirited performance to starve Forest of goal chances while giving a hint of a breakthrough themselves:

FOREST:	BRISTOL ROV:
Middleton	Eadie
Clark	Bater
Anderson	Parsons
McGovern	Aitken
Lloyd	Taylor
Bowyer	Day
O'Hare	Stephens
O'Neill	Williams
White	Stanforth
Woodcock	Evans
Robertson	Hamilton
Sub: Barrett	Sub: Gascoit

Referee: C B White, Harrow, Middlesex.
Linesmen: C J Naphine (red), B C Jackson (yellow).

With Fearnley ruled out yesterday and Warboys failing a fitness test before the match, Rovers went into the game with only one recognised striker—Stanforth.

And the home fans, who have not seen Forest in action since December 18, warmed to a brisk start by the Reds.

An excellent through-ball by Lloyd set Bowyer off on a run down the left and after feeding Robertson, the Scot tricked his way past a defender, before shooting off target.

It looked clear in the early stages that Rovers planned to stifle Forest with numbers in midfield and rely solely on Stanforth up front.

USEFUL

Useful work by Hamilton gave the visitors the hint of an opening, but after finding Stanforth, the move broke down following an Anderson interception.

Evans then forced a corner off McGovern, but his kick from the left was easily cleared by Withe.

Forest returned swiftly to the attack and Woodcock accelerated through on the left to create a shooting chance for himself, but his rising drive cleared the bar.

Williams prompted another Rovers' counter-attack with an intelligent ball to Aitken, but when Williams moved into the middle to meet the cross, his header caused no problem for Middleton.

Despite fielding a patched-up side, Rovers continued to play with commendable spirit and were close to snatching the lead following a Stephens' corner, which Evans had forced.

Attendance: 17,700

Big central defender Taylor was up in the box to head the corner goalwards and Stanforth produced a first-time shot that drew a splendid instinctive save from Middleton, who dove to his right to parry the effort.

SPACE

It was a let-off for the Reds, who were prompted into action with O'Hare cleverly turning an O'Neill pass into space in the area. It was as well for Rovers that Day was on hand to clear.

Robertson then jinked his way in from the left to feed leading scorer Bowyer, whose 20-yard left-foot shot sailed over the top.

Rovers continued to pose more than the occasional threat with Evans and Hamilton busy in midfield and always keen to find an opening up front.

It was Evans who created the next danger after moving on to a Stephens throw. He cut in on the left and sent an angled drive against the face of the bar and out of play.

Forest's immediate reply came from O'Neill who embarked on a long elusive run that ended in a shot that brought Eadie to his knees.

O'Neill again tried to create an opening in a packed Bristol defence, but he was crowded out when running on to a return ball from O'Hare.

CORNER

The Irishman then won a right-wing corner off Bater after working his way into the area and Woodcock's kick almost led to Forest breaking the deadlock.

O'Hare ran to the near post to flick the ball to the edge of the six-yard area, where Lloyd got in a header which Eadie smothered on his line.

Rovers' attacks had subsided, but when Stanforth tried to squeeze his way through, McGovern earned applause for a fine piece of defensive covering.

Forest's next goal attempt came after Woodcock had raced on to a Lloyd through-ball, but Bowyer's shot from the edge of the box was beaten out.

Rovers workrate starved

Forest of chances and when O'Neill tried to thread through the middle of the Bristol defence, he was beaten by the joint attentions of Parsons and Taylor.

Robertson created space for a finely-judged left-wing cross and Lloyd powered a header inches outside the post with Eadie at full-length.

The Bristol keeper, recalled for the game, then had to leave his line and dive bravely at Woodcock's feet as the young striker tried to capitalise on a flick from Withe.

But just before half-time Forest almost broke through following a mistake by Day.

Lloyd lofted a hopeful ball into the box and Day under pressure from Woodcock, headed back towards his own goal without realising that Eadie had advanced. Somehow, the Bristol keeper managed to get down in time and cling on to the ball.

In the last move of the half, McGovern raced to the half following a Withe pass, and drilled a shot across the face of the Bristol goal with no one able to apply the finishing touch.

**NOTTM. FOREST ... 0
BRISTOL ROVERS ... 0**
Rovers surged forward from the restart and Anderson was happy to concede a corner to prevent a Stephens cross landing in the danger zone.

The Forest full-back was prominent in attack as the Reds pushed forward themselves, but his near post cross was headed away by Day.

O'Neill then charged down an attempted clearance to run at the Bristol defence once more, but his low centre was scrambled clear by Parsons.

Rovers piled on the pressure and after O'Hare had shot wide, Lloyd headed over the top, following a Robertson corner.

But in the 52nd minute, Forest were back to snatch the lead with a ROBERTSON penalty.

There seemed little danger to Bristol when Clark was in possession in the corner of the area, but he was tripped by Williams and referee White, who was on the spot, immediately awarded the penalty.

Robertson stepped up to fire a firm right-foot shot to Eadie's right and into the net.

Taylor shot wide as Rovers strived for a quick equaliser, but the visitors were soon under pressure as Forest set about consolidating their lead.

Twice within minutes O'Neill was denied a second goal.

Forest looked to be marching into the fourth round, but were stunned by a 76th minute goal from WILLIAMS after slackness RESULT.

**NOTTM. FOREST ... 1
BRISTOL ROVERS ... 1**

SCOTTISH CUP (Second Round)

Albion ... 2 Raith ... 1
Half-time 0-1
Girvan ... 0 Q'n's Park ... 3
Half-time 0-2
Meadowbank 1 E Stirling ... 2
Half-time 1-2
Clydebank ... 2 Selkirk ... 0
Half-time 1-0
Forfar ... 0 Elgin ... 2
Half-time 0-0
Stranraer ... 0 Stirling ... 0
Half-time 0-0
Brechin ... 0 Iny Thistle ... 0
Half-time 0-0
Inverness C 1 Alloa ... 1
Half-time 1-0

SCOTTISH (Premier Division)

Ayr ... 0 Aberdeen ... 0
Half-time 0-0
Dundee U ... 1 Celtic ... 2
Half-time 0-1
Hearts ... 1 Partick ... 0
Half-time 0-0
Motherwell ... * Hibernian ... *
Half-time 0-1
Rangers ... 3 Kilmarnock ... 0
Half-time 1-0

SCOTTISH I

Arbroath ... 2 Hamilton ... 1
Half-time 1-1
Dumbarton 2 Montrose ... 2
Half-time 1-0
East Fife ... 1 Q'n of Sth. ... 1
Half-time 1-0
Falkirk ... 1 St Mirren ... 1
Half-time 1-1
Morton ... 2 Dundee ... 3
Half-time 1-2

SCOTTISH II

Dunfermline ... 1 Berwick ... 0
Half-time 0-0
Clyde ... 4 Cowdenbath ... 1
Half-time 2-1

1 2 X

DRAWS

Score Draws (3pts)

**EAST FIFE v QUEEN OF S
BURNLEY v LINCOLN
CHARLTON v BLACKBURN
DONCASTER v CAMBUDN
FULHAM v SWINDON
HULL v PORT VALE
FALKIRK v ST MIRREN
DARLINGTON v ORIENT
YORK v GILLINGHAM
SOUTHAMPTON v CHELSEA
SUNDERLAND v WREXHAM
DUMFRIE v MONTROSE
INVERNESS v ALLOA**

No Score Draws (2pts)

**WIMBLEDON v MIDDLESBRO
BRECHIN v INVERNESS TH
STRANRAER v STIRLING
LIVERPOOL v PALACE
AYR v ABERDEEN
SHEFF WED v NEWCASTLE
SHEFF WED v BRIGHTON
BLACKPOOL v DERBY**

HOMES

NORTHWICH	MAN UTD
ALBION R	DNFERMLINE
LEEDS	BEDFORD
CARDIFF	CLYDEBANK
HEARTS	QPR
CLYDE	ROCHDALE
WOLVES	HARTLEPOOL
OLHAM	HEREFORD
ARRBROATH	OXFORD
WEST HAM	COVENTRY
BOURNEMTH	RANGERS
EXETER	IPSWICH
DARTFORD	CREWE
CARLISLE	BIRMINGHAM
EVERTON	ATHERSTONE

AWAYS

QUEEN'S PK	ARSENAL
ELGIN	MANSFIELD
DUNDEE	AVILLA
E STIRLING	LATON
CHESTER	CELTIC
COLCHESTR	

RESULTS AND TABLES

FA CUP - Third Round

Birmingham 1 Portsmouth 0	Leeds ... 5 Norwich ... 2
Half-time 1-0	Half-time 5-1
Blackpool 0 DERBY ... 0	LEICESTER 0 Aston V ... 1
Half-time 0-0	Half-time 0-0
Burnley ... 2 LINCOLN ... 2	Liverpool ... 0 Crystal Pal ... 0
Half-time 1-1	Half-time 0-0
Cardiff ... 1 Tottenham 0	Man City ... * W Brom ... *
Half-time 1-0	Half-time 0-0
Carlisle ... 5 Maccloek ... 1	Man Utd ... 1 Walsall ... 0
Half-time 2-0	Half-time 1-0
Charlton ... 1 Blackburn 1	Northwich 3 Watford ... 2
Half-time 1-1	Half-time 1-0
Coventry ... 1 Millwall ... 0	FOREST ... 1 Bristol R ... 1
Half-time 0-0	Half-time 0-0
Darlington 2 Orient ... 2	NOTTS CO 0 Arsenal ... 1
Half-time 0-1	Half-time 0-0
Everton ... 2 Stoke ... 0	Oldham ... 3 Plymouth ... 0
Half-time 1-0	Half-time 2-0
Fulham ... 3 Swindon ... 3	QPR ... 2 Shrewsbury ... 1
Half-time 1-3	Half-time 0-0
Halifax ... 0 Luton ... 1	Sheff Utd ... 0 Newcastle ... 0
Half-time 0-1	Half-time 0-0
Hereford ... 1 Reading ... 0	Southampton 1 Chelsea ... 1
Half-time 0-0	Half-time 0-1
Hull ... 1 Port Vale ... 1	Southend 0 Chester ... 4
Half-time 0-0	Half-time 0-0
Ipswich ... 4 Bristol C ... 1	Sunderland 2 Wrexham ... 2
Half-time 3-0	Half-time 1-0
Kettering ... 2 Colchester 3	West Ham ... 2 Bolton ... 1
Half-time 0-2	Half-time 1-0
Wimbledon 0 Middlesbro 0	Wolves ... 3 Rotherham 2
Half-time 0-0	Half-time 2-1

DIVISION III

Oxford ... 3 CHESTRFLD 2
Half-time 2-1
Sheff Wed 0 Brighton ... 0
Half-time 0-0
York ... 2 Gillingham 2
Half-time 1-2

DIVISION III

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Brighton	23	13	5	5	45	23	31
Rotherham	21	11	7	3	38	22	29
Preston	21	10	8	3	35	17	28
Shrewsbury	21	9	6	6	36	19	28
Wrexham	20	11	5	5	36	19	28
Sheff U	22	10	7	5	33	26	27
Mansfield	20	11	4	5	34	17	26
Crystal P	21	8	9	4	24	15	25
Trafford	22	7	10	5	26	23	24
Oxford U	24	6	10	8	34	32	22
Bury	20	9	4	7	30	35	22
Swindon	20	8	5	7	28	29	21
Leds	21	6	6	7	27	24	20
Chestrfld	22	8	4	10	28	29	20
Chester	20	8	3	9	19	25	19
Reading	22	7	4	11	25	33	18
Gillingham	23	6	6	10	27	38	18
Portsmouth	22	7	10	5	28	29	20
Peterboro	22	6	5	11	24	32	17
Port Vale	22	6	8	10	23	31	16
Grimsby	21	6	4	11	22	33	16
Walsall	22	4	7	11	19	32	15
Northampton	22	4	4	14	22	41	12
York	20	4	4	12	20	43	12

DIVISION I

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Liverpool	23	14	4	5	39	21	32
Ipswich	20	12	6	2	39	19	30
Man City	21	11	9	0	28	16	28
Villa	21	11	3	7	43	28	27
Newcastle	19	9	6	4	32	22	24
Arsenal	20	9	6	5	37	30	24
Middlesbro	21	9	6	6	17	20	24
Birmingham	21	9	6	6	32	28	24
West Brom	20	7	6	7	28	21	23
Leicester	22	5	11	6	26	32	21
Coventry	19	7	6	6	25	23	20
Leeds	20	6	8	6	25	26	20
Norwich	20	6	8	6	25	26	20
Man Utd	19	6	7	31	29	18	18
Everton	20	6	6	8	31	38	18
Stoke	19	6	5	8	12	22	17
Derby	18	4	8	6	27	41	15
Spurs	20	5	10	27	41	15	15
QPR	18	5	4	9	21	28	14
Bristol C	18	4	5	9	17	22	13
West Ham	21	4	5	12	20	34	13
Sunderlnd	22	2	5	15	13	34	9

DIVISION II

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Chelsea	23	13	6	4	41	31	32
Bolton	22	13	4	5	39	27	30
Wolves	21	10	7	4	51	27	27
Forest	21	9	7	4	45	24	27
Blackpool	22	9	4	4	42	23	27
Millwall	20	9	4	7	32	26	22
Sheff U	21	7	8	6	26	27	22
Charlton	20	8	5	4	36	21	21
Oldham	19	8	4	6	25	21	21
Bristol R	23	8	5	10	34	39	21
Blackburn	21	8	4	9	22	30	19
Fulham	21	8	4	6	22	21	19
Hull	20	7	4	6	22	21	19
Cardiff	21	7	5	5	31	19	19
Notts Co	19	8	3	8	28	31	19
Southampton	21	6	7	8	34	38	19
Fleetwood	21	6	7	10	31	36	19
Plymouth	20	5	9	8	33	32	19
Carlisle	23	6	6	11	25	21	18
Burnley	21	4	8	9	24	31	16
Crewe	18	4	6	18	25	21	16
Hartlepool	21	3	5	12	28	29	11

DIVISION IV

Bournemouth 1 Huddersfld 0
Half-time 1-0
Crewe ... 3 Brentford ... 2
Half-time 1-1
Doncaster ... 1 Cambridge 1
Half-time 0-0
Exeter ... 1 Barnsley ... 0
Half-time 0-0
Hartlepool 4 Torquay ... 0
Half-time 2-0
Rochdale ... 1 Swansea 0
Half-time 1-0
Scunthorpe ... * Bradford C ... *
Half-time 0-0

DIVISION IV

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Camb Utd	23	10	10	3	38	21	30
Bradford C	23	12	6	5	44	28	30
Colchester	22	13	2	4	44	21	28
Southend	21	8	11	2	30	16	21
Bournemouth	23	9	5	3	30	21	27
Exeter	22	10	6	3	30	24	26
Stockport	22	10	6	6	28		