



People's Pension Stadium, Crawley, West Sussex, Saturday 23rd February 2019

By Dylan

Match Report

Crawley's campaign in the lowest professional tier had been a rollercoaster, but there was still 13 games to go of the campaign.

All 250 printed match programmes were sold out for Crawley Town's EFL League 2 hosting of Macclesfield Town. At 15:00 on Saturday, the table showed Crawley in 17th and Macclesfield in 23rd.

Macclesfield's end was a desolate wasteland at kick off, with just 135 fans, due to the approximately 218-mile difference between the teams. Matty Willock made his home debut for Crawley, and he had a decent shot saved by the Macclesfield keeper, Kieran O'Hara, early on.

Crawley had a free kick in the 5th minute, which was kept at bay by Macclesfield's defence. The visitors then had a chance up the other end, which resulted in a cleared corner.

Crawley then had a throw-in, which resulted in another chance for Willock.

Macclesfield had ample opportunities after that, although did apply a lot of pressure on the hosts. Crawley managed to get a corner in the 18th minute. Only to win another one moments later, which was sent around, until a goal kick to Macclesfield resulted.

Macclesfield had a player subbed after only 26 mins due to injury, but Crawley had another corner, which was cleared, and a throw in resulted in a shot, which was skied. Macclesfield then had a succession of corners, all of which came to nothing.

Macclesfield then took a 1-0 lead on 40 mins, a towering header by Harry Smith. His 5th goal of the season.

Half Time: 1-0 Macclesfield

The second half began with no changes for either side, but Crawley had decent chance from a cross early on. Crawley managed to carve out a corner on 53 Mins, which came to nothing. On 61 mins, Crawley made a substitution. Josh Payne made way for Ashley Nathaniel- George.

On 67 mins, Crawley had another opportunity from a free kick, which was cleared for a throw in. Nothing happened to fill Crawley's one-goal void except 2 more substitutions. And then out of scrappy Macclesfield defending, Crawley gained an equaliser through Lewis Young on 85 mins. It was a tense last few for Crawley, what with Macclesfield's pressure. Crawley had a free kick in the dying minutes which came to nothing. Soon after ended a tense and frustrating afternoon for Crawley.

Full Time: 1-1