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Lady luck smiles on Ladybarn

From the Messenger Series, first published Thursday 27th May 1999.

FOR the first time in 17 years, the Altrincham and District League Cup has gone to a team outside of the Premier Division.

First Division giant-killers Ladybarn, who had never previously gone beyond the quarter-final stage, overcame Premier side Lisbon St Anthony's in an enthralling final.

The Premier side had the upper hand during the early exchanges, but as the game progressed, Ladybarn - whose earlier scalps had included this year's Premier winners Nelson - settled their nerves and at half time, both teams went in without a score.

The second half saw more action, and when Ladybarn scored a surprise goal through Steve Lilley, an unlikely victory looked possible.

With time running out, Ladybarn pressed forward ad player/manager John Lawless beat the offside trap and rounded the keeper to make it 2-0.

An injury time consolation goal was not enough to deny Ladybarn a victory that few would have predicted and their first cup success in the club's history.

Converted for the new archive on 13 March 2001. Some images and formatting may have been lost in the conversion.

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