FA150



Accrington Stanley, winners of the 1920–1921 Lancashire Junior Cup

The FA

1863 150 YEARS 2013

For the fans of
Accrington Stanley and all of
those fans of small-town teams and the
ones who support the big city powerhouses
and all the boys and girls who play the game
—it is your passion and loyalty that
have made this a great story
for 150 years



Kelly Smith



Rachel Yankey

FA150

The Memories and the Glory of 150 Years of Football in England

Edited by Mike Bynum

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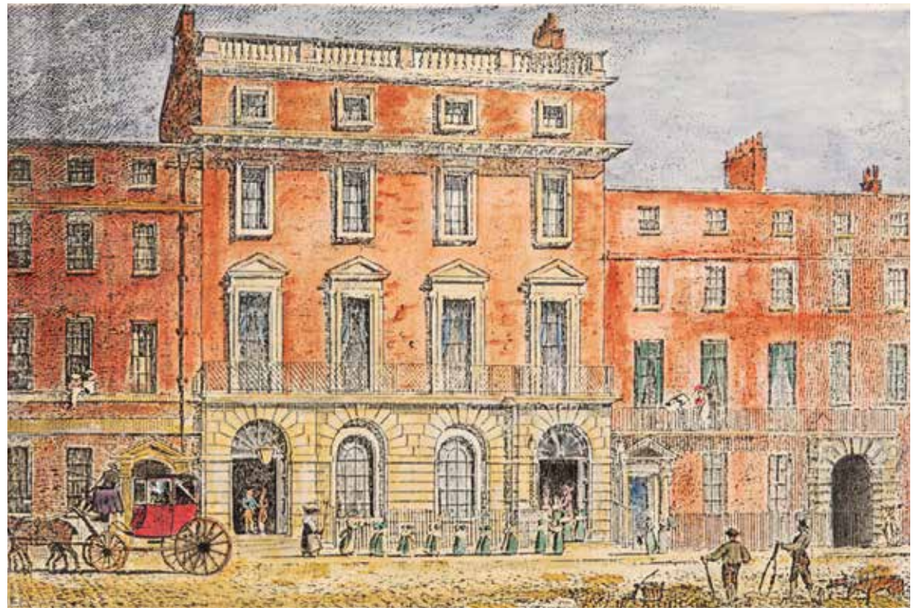
HENRY WINTER *The Telegraph*

The Freemasons' Tavern

1863

Where a good idea became reality

by Henry Winter



The Freemasons' Tavern was located on the first floor of The Freemasons' Hall on Great Queen Street

IT ALL STARTED WITH AN ARGUMENT IN A PUB. ¶ Refuelled by the landlord of The Freemasons' Tavern in London in 1863, a group of footballing enthusiasts met to debate the game they played in differing forms. ¶ How long should the pitch be? Should boots embedded with nails be banned? Should there be hacking, tripping or handling? ¶ Some present at the alehouse ruck eventually marched off to form rugby. The majority marched on with the historic codification of football. ¶ These talks in The Tavern 150 years ago shaped the sport that became an English passion, a global obsession and a guarantee of endless arguments in pubs about football.



Our footballers can

inspire

the nation just like Olympic stars did in 2012, says the Duke of Cambridge at The Football Association's 150th anniversary gala

by Chris Pleasance *Daily Mail*
October 26, 2013

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE HAS SAID HE WANTS ENGLAND'S FOOTBALL PLAYERS TO TAKE UP THE OLYMPIC LEGACY AND INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION. ¶ Speaking at the 150th anniversary gala of The FA, Prince William, The Association's president, praised those who had helped develop the sport. He also called for more training and support to be given to players to allow them to live up to their status as role models.

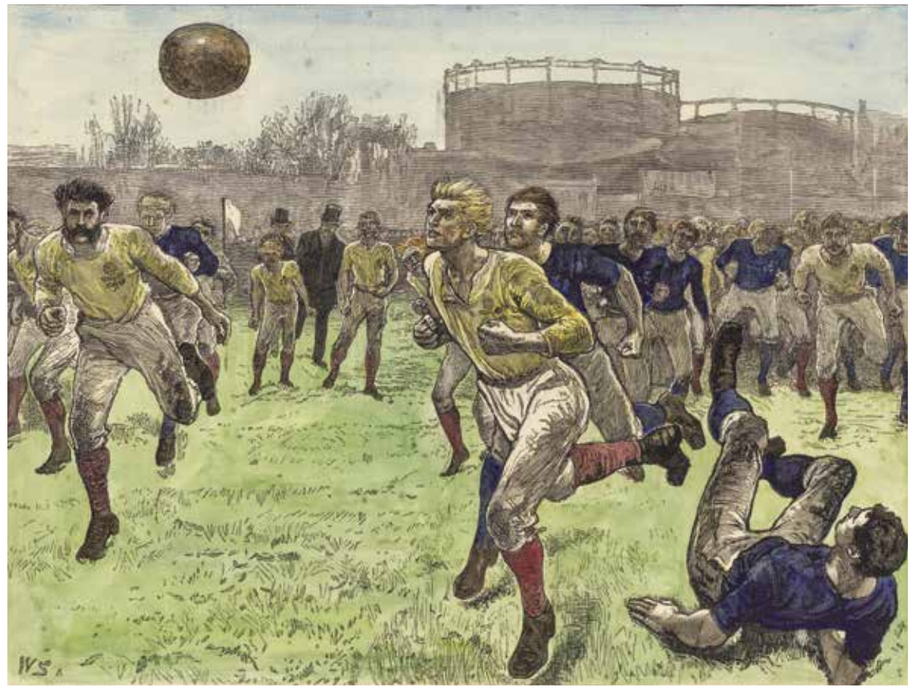


O

ld codgers at The FA?

Yes, but they're the men who changed the world

by Martin Samuel



February 5, 1872: England defeat Scotland, 1–0, at the Oval, London

EBENEZER COBB MORLEY WAS NEVER PARTICULARLY WELL SERVED BY HISTORY. ¶ Melvyn Bragg placed Morley's little book among the twelve that changed the world, yet failed to credit him as the author. ¶ His grave lies derelict and unloved, a portrait of him is held in storage. He doesn't even make a list of famous Ebenezers detailed in that font of all modern knowledge and trivia, plus some stuff that is just wildly inaccurate: *Wikipedia*. ¶ Yet Morley deserves to be remembered, as does his book. For a first draft his *Rules of Association Football*, really was rather good. Take a read.



Footmen

serve half-time oranges on silver platters at historic match

by Gordon Rayner
The Daily Telegraph, October 7, 2013

WITH TAIL-COATED FOOTMEN SERVING THE HALF-TIME ORANGES AND BUCKINGHAM PALACE AS THEIR CHANGING ROOM, it wasn't exactly the muck and nettles of a normal Southern Amateur League match. ¶ So it was with some difficulty that the managers of Civil Service FC and Polytechnic FC tried to persuade their players that today's competitive fixture was "just another game." ¶ The first ever match to be played in the Queen's back garden was arranged by the Duke of Cambridge, who is President of the Football Association, as part of the FA's 150th anniversary celebrations. ¶ The Queen, who does not return from Balmoral until tomorrow, missed the match but the Duke jokingly warned the players that if they broke a window they would have Her Majesty to "answer to."

Opposite: Buckingham Palace servants prepare for half-time

Next page: Polytechnic FC beat local rivals Civil Service FC, 2–1, in first football match ever played at the Palace


BT Sport

Cambridge

Its historic influence on football

by Hugh MacDonald

ONE CAN BE SURE IT WAS COLD. It was winter in England, after all. One can also be persuaded that the tapping of the hammer was accompanied by the shouts, even roars from a large group of energetic students. The venue is beyond doubt. The rest is incalculable, delicious mystery.

A seminal moment in the greatest of sports took place on a small patch of land in Cambridge where a set of rules of football was nailed to a tree. The journey of football from the primordial swamp of games played by differing rules, in differing styles with differing sizes and shapes of a ball was about to meet a significant signpost. The future of a game that has captivated the world began to gain a familiar shape on the oddly-named Parker's Piece in Cambridge in 1846.

The evolution of football is a subject capable of producing the most deep contention and the most marvellous stories. It can be said with some certainty, and with a dollop of whimsy, that Cambridge provides a link between the anarchy of old football, where rules were decreed by where the sport was played, to new football where the rules cover every player, whether scuffling on a bare patch of land in an African village or stroking the ball with practised ease on the lush turf of Wembley.

In evolutionary terms, the moment when football stopped shambling and stood upright, much like the ascent from ape to man, occurred first at Cambridge in 1846.

This form of football gained further strength in the dormitory rooms of Henry Charles Malden in Trinity College, Cambridge, on a winter evening in 1848.

The first steps towards a whole new ball game for football were taken almost twenty years before the formation of The Football Association by public schoolboys who first decided that football needed a unifying code. They then spent years in wrangling and debating before deciding in a monumental meeting over eight fractious hours in 1848, over how their game should be played.

The first deliberations in 1846 were held by a pair of Shrewsbury grads, Henry de Winton and John C. Thring, and an unnamed group of Old Etonians. Their set of rules were nailed to a tree in Parker's Piece, a patch of land, twenty-five acres in size, on the edge

In 2006 The Football Association presented this commemorative testimonial to the Cambridge University Football Club in honour of their 150th Anniversary





The 1820's to the 1850's:
when Eton, Harrow, Cambridge, Oxford, Rugby,
Winchester, Shrewsbury and Charterhouse
all played

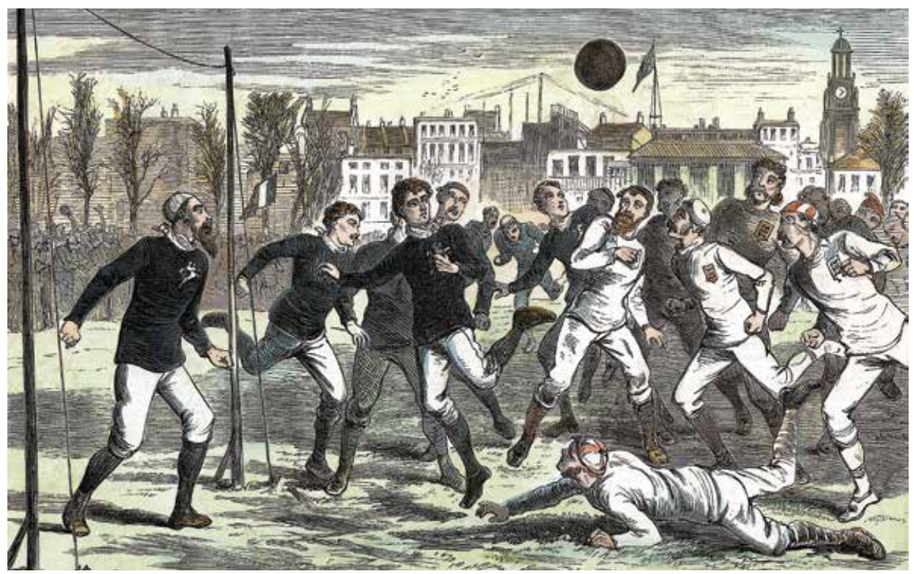
their own games of football

by David Prentice



IT IS ONE OF THE GREAT MYTHS OF MODERN SPORT. ¶ In the early years of the nineteenth century, so the story goes, a public schoolboy by the name of William Webb Ellis interrupted a schoolground football match by picking up the ball . . . and running with it. ¶ His initiative, as some team-mates proclaimed — or cheating as others complained — was credited as giving birth to the sport of rugby; and at the same time forcing the split which saw the creation of the game of soccer as we know it. ¶ Rugby's World Cup trophy is now named after the errant schoolboy, there are statues and plaques recreating the moment, and there's even a date of 1823 for the momentous incident. ¶ Except it probably didn't happen. ¶ The truth is much more complex.

England v. Scotland



A rivalry that forever changed global sports

by Michael Grant

Opposite: 1875: England v. Scotland at the Oval

FOR MOST OF THE 150 YEARS OR SO in which football has been the most popular spectator sport in the United Kingdom there was no need to explain the intensity of the rivalry between England and Scotland. Supporters recognised that the desire for the two nations to get one over the other was as familiar and permanent as the air they breathed. The annual cross-border clashes were one of the great, unbroken threads of the game. ¶ England v. Scotland is the oldest international fixture in world football. No two countries have played each other more often. When 149,415 supporters crammed into Hampden for the game in 1937 it set a European attendance record for an international match which is unlikely ever to be broken. It is remarkable that the current generation are strangers to this incredible fixture and its unique significance in history.



Scottish fans endeavouring to avoid paying to see a match against the Auld Enemy at Wembley in 1949

Two notable victories were a 5-0 rout of the Scots at Hampden in 1888 and their revenge at Wembley in 1928. The latter was a 5-1 triumph by a team celebrated as "The Wembley Wizards" and included Newcastle's Hughie Gallacher and the Preston North End and Arsenal legend, Alex James.

None of Scotland's five mesmerising forwards was taller than 5 foot 7 inches.

The result remains the heaviest defeat suffered by England in almost 82 years of playing at Wembley.

In a booklet published by the stadium's owners in 1945 the game is recalled in vivid detail, "English football fans shudder when the year 1928 is mentioned. The traditional enemy, Scotland, came to Wembley and gave the Sassenachs a first class lesson in the art of playing football. So much so that, to this day, that Scottish team is still spoken of as 'The Wembley Wizards.' All Scotland seemed to come to town for that match and the fans actually brought their own scaling ladders to make sure of getting into the stadium. As a result of this, Wembley afterwards became a barbed wire fortress."

The defeat was sore for England but the series as a whole was inexorably turning in their favour. They would never again lose by more than two goals to the Scots and when sporting hostilities resumed after the Second World War there were far more white victories posted than blue.

Through the 1950's England lost the fixture only once and the home supporters at Wembley in 1955 savoured a rampant 7-2 win inspired by the 40-year-old Stanley Matthews.

The Scots could not compete against a team that included Matthews, Duncan Edwards, Billy Wright and Nat Lofthouse, who scored twice. England's Dennis Wilshaw helped himself to four goals as Scotland lost at Wembley for the first time in more than two decades.

There was another emphatic English win in 1958, 4-0 at Hampden, but worse was to come for the Scots.

The 1961 match at Wembley remains the highest scoring game between the countries and the most painful defeat ever suffered by Scotland. Even the presence of Denis Law, Dave Mackay and Ian St. John could not spare them from a crushing 9-3 humiliation.

Jimmy Greaves scored a hat-trick and perhaps formed the disparaging opinion about Scottish goalkeepers that he later voiced in his work as a media pundit.

The result was so traumatic for goalkeeper Frank Haffey that it played a part in his



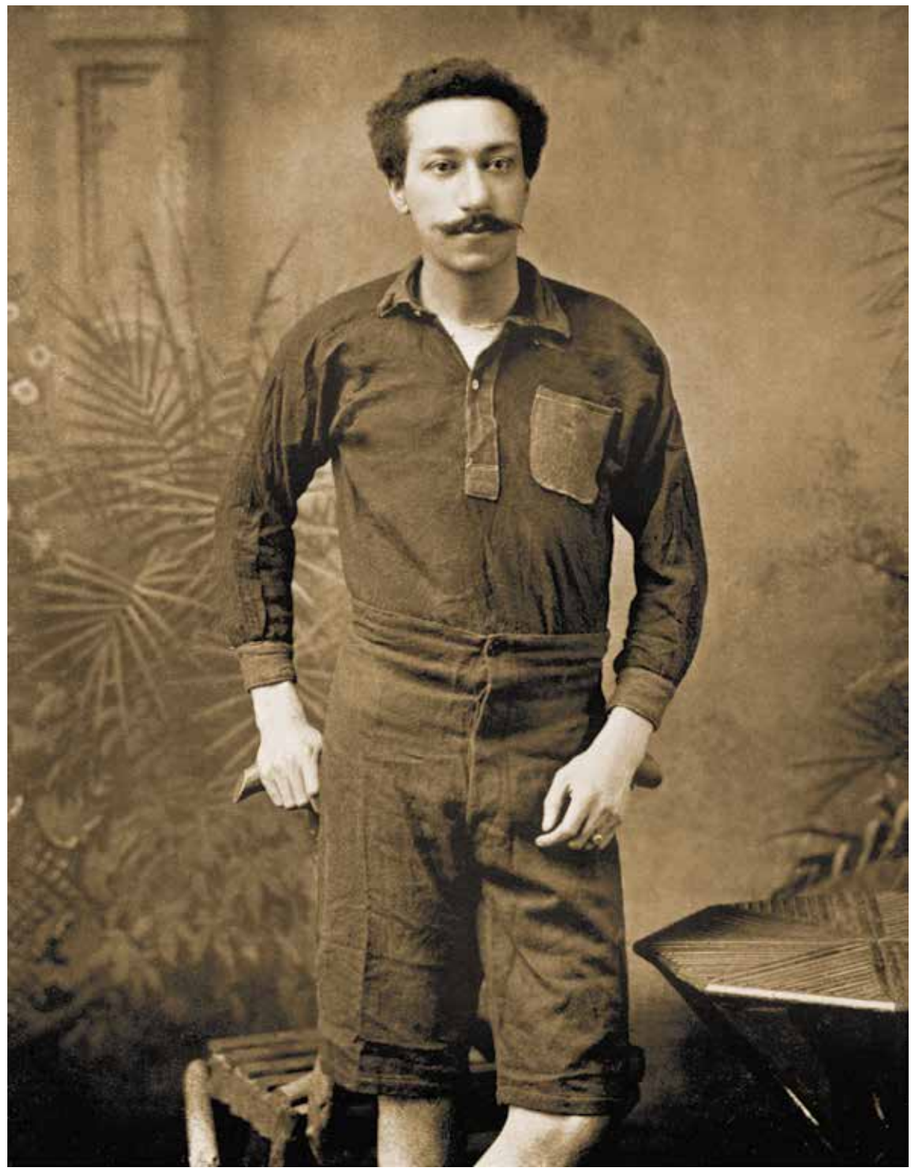
Sheffield FC v. Hallam FC

the first football

derby

by Martin Smith

IT WAS A GAME FIRST PLAYED ON BOXING DAY 1860. ¶ The original local derby, in what was fast becoming the home of football, between Sheffield FC and Hallam FC. ¶ One hundred and fifty three years later they are still at it.



Arthur Wharton

An early football trailblazer

by Stuart Brennan

FOR A CENTURY THE NAME, AND THE ACHIEVEMENTS, of Arthur Wharton, the world's first black professional footballer, were forgotten. ¶ Yet the man from the Gold Coast, now known as Ghana, struck the first blows in a struggle which has blossomed into English football's incessant fight against the evil of racism. ¶ Not that Wharton set out to blaze a trail. He was just a sports-mad young man out to make a living from the things he did best — run fast, keep goal and play cricket. ¶ He sacrificed a life of relative wealth to pursue his dreams.

10

greatest FA Cup Finals

by Phil Hay

THE CLOSEST I'VE COME TO TOUCHING THE FA CUP is in the banqueting suite at Elland Road. Deep inside the bowels of Leeds United's stadium is an image which, like all great photographs, lets you live the moment: Don Revie clutching Billy Bremner as a father would clutch his long-lost son, a lidless trophy held between them. They drank from The FA Cup that night. ¶ The date was May 6, 1972, and Leeds have not forgotten it. They chose The FA Cup's centenary year to win the most precious eighteen inches of silver in England and climbed to the top of Wembley's steps to be met by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Mick Jones, his left elbow dislocated, made it up the stairs with the help of Norman Hunter, grimacing as he went. ¶ Leeds' 1-0 defeat of Arsenal is part of the fabric of the club.

Opposite: May 6, 1972: Leeds United manager Don Revie, left, and captain Billy Bremner after The FA Cup Final. Leeds United 1, Arsenal 0

May 5, 1973: Sunderland manager Bob Stokoe enjoys a victory ride on his players' shoulders after their 1–0 upset of Leeds United

and pressed in their own unique style, they conceded the only goal on 31 minutes when Ian Porterfield volleyed the rebound from Billy Hughes's corner past David Harvey.

Porterfield was the hero of the hour but Jim Montgomery, Sunderland's keeper, stole the show with an immense performance behind his defence.

As the final whistle sounded, club manager Bob Stokoe adjusted his Trilby hat, smoothed down his mac and ran across the Wembley turf to leap into Montgomery's arms.

It was the underdog's day, of which The FA Cup has produced many.

"Humiliating," said Peter Lorimer, Leeds' all-time leading goalscorer, when asked to describe it. "We were the biggest favourites ever to win The Cup but Ian scored and the rest is history. The least you can do is take it on the chin."

The FA Cup Final is a graveyard of teams who expected to win the trophy or dared to believe that they had.

Take 2006, the last Final to be staged at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. It was West Ham United's day apparently, 3-2 to the good after 90 minutes, when Steven Gerrard — his


THE ORIGINAL LONDON TRANSPORT
Carlsberg
WIMBLEDON



Football and

the royals

by Bill Howell

FOOTBALL HAD LONG-SINCE TAKEN A RELENTLESS GRIP on the working classes when King George V, five weeks shy of his forty-ninth birthday and four years after his ascension to the throne, put the royal seal of approval on the sport. ¶ The King faced problems in Ireland and had railway and coal strikes to contend with at home. ¶ In a little over three months Europe would be at war. ¶ But football was too big to ignore and wearing a red Lancashire rose he took in the 1914 FA Cup Final between eventual victors, Burnley, and Liverpool. ¶ The Times newspaper of April 27, 1914, suggested the King's attendance had brought a class division to an end.

Opposite: July 11, 1966: Bobby Moore presents the England team to Queen Elizabeth II before England's opening World Cup match at Wembley against Uruguay. England 0, Uruguay 0



A slow start grows into a momentum

by Emma John

"FOOTBALL IS A SPORT FOR WOMEN," wrote the journalist Lady Florence Dixie in 1895. Dixie, an outspoken campaigner for women's rights, had just agreed to become the president of the British Ladies' Football Club, and her vision for the sport was clear, "I see arising on the golden hilltops of progress above the mists of prejudice, football will be considered as natural a game for girls as for boys." ¶ It would take more than a century for Dixie's prophecy to be fulfilled.

places of work—even Harrods had a team—but none became as well known, or as greatly feared, as the Dick, Kerr Ladies. Founded in 1917, they played out of Deepdale, home of Preston North End; in 1920, a Boxing Day match against their closest rivals St. Helens, brought a crowd of 50,000, with at least 10,000 more locked outside the gates.

At their peak, the Dick, Kerr Ladies were playing twice a week and turning down 120 invitations a year, and raising tens of thousands of pounds for charities.

"There was huge interest, and the boys didn't like it," says Lopez. "There was some trumped up charge that they were using funds for wrong purposes."

What followed was perhaps not The Football Association's finest hour.

In 1921, The FA issued the following statement, "Complaints having been made as to football being played by women, the Council feel impelled to express their strong opinion that the game of football is quite unsuitable for females and ought not to be encouraged."

And then came the killer blow: The FA

December 26, 1934: The Womens' Shop Assistants from Hayes, in Middlesex, met the Woolworths team in a Boxing Day women's match at the Hayes Football Club Ground for the Paulin Challenge Cup

later, having established development plans for the game from grassroots to elite level—and attracted sponsors to both the league and Cup competitions—it appointed Powell its first full-time coach for the women's international sides.

Powell's England grew in confidence throughout the 2000's, qualifying for two European Championships, and, in 2007, reaching a World Cup Quarter-final against the USA.

Two years later came England's greatest footballing achievement to date—a place in the Final of the European Championship in Finland, thanks to an extra-time goal against Netherlands in the semis.

Germany beat England, 6-2, in the final reckoning, but the tournament had proved a magnificent showcase for English talent, not least the world-beating skills of Kelly Smith.

Powell has compared Smith's unique touch and technical ability with that of Maradona and Messi—a once-in-a-lifetime player—and the talented forward holds England's goal-scoring record, with forty-six strikes in a 115 appearances.

Smith was also a key player in the Arsenal

May 5, 2003: The Charlton Athletic team huddle before kick-off in The FA Cup Women's Final at Selhurst Park against Fulham. Fulham 3, Charlton Athletic 0








BOY 1: *Got any lemonade?*

BOY 2: *If you want.*

BOY 1: *Milk! Urghh!*

BOY 2: *It's what Ian Rush drinks.*

BOY 1: *Ian Rush?*

BOY 2: *Yeah. And he said if I didn't drink lots of milk, when I grow up, I'll only be good enough to play for Accrington Stanley.*

BOY 1: *Accrington Stanley? Who are they?*

BOY 2: *Exactly!*

From the 1989 Milk Marketing Board advertisement

English football's

forgotten

teams

by Simon Stone

IT IS AN ICONIC 1980'S UK TV ADVERT, dreamt up by some smart men working on behalf of the Milk Marketing Board. ¶ Two young Liverpool fans, sticky and sweaty after an extended kickabout outside, hunt in the fridge for a thirst-quenching drink. ¶ One wants lemonade, the other says he is having milk. ¶ Questioned about the choice by his disbelieving pal, the dark-haired kid responds by informing his mate milk is what Ian Rush drinks and that the legendary striker had said if he didn't drink lots of it (milk) he would only be good enough to play for Accrington Stanley. ¶ "Accrington Stanley? Who are they?" the other boy asks. ¶ "Exactly!" the pro-milk mate responds.



March 6, 1962: Accrington Stanley trainer Harry Hubbick closes the door for the last time at the ground after his club withdrew from the Football League in 1962

Opposite: Earlier that day, men from the Gas Board leave the Accrington Stanley ground after reading the meter and turning off the gas

This TV ad was brilliant because it had resonance. Accrington Stanley was a well-known name. But nobody *really knew* who they were. As it happens, the unique moniker emerged from a pretty simple story.

A small town in East Lancashire, thirty-two miles north of Manchester, at the heart of England's Industrial Revolution, with its origins in cotton and textile, Accrington, were one of the twelve founder members of the Football League, but a rapid decline led to its demise five years later, in 1893.

In contrast, their neighbours, Stanley Villa, were improving. They were based at the Stanley public house, on Stanley Street.





1929: A woman football player puts on her lipstick during a quiet moment in goal



1922: Preston's Dick, Kerr Ladies team during their tour of the USA

had suggested forming a women's league in Lancashire — was planning an expansion of Dick, Kerr's footballing activities on a global scale. A tour of Canada and the USA was set up and proved quite a success after an inauspicious start. When the ladies arrived in Quebec in December 1922 it was to learn that they had been banned by the Dominion Football Association — with a nudge, it was rumoured, from The FA at home — from facing Canadian teams.

So on they went to America, where there was another surprise awaiting. Rather than being pitted against fellow females, the Dick, Kerr girls discovered, it was mainly men's teams that would form the opposition during a tour that took them to Boston, Baltimore, St. Louis, Washington, Detroit, Chicago and Philadelphia.

Frankland's players met the challenge with aplomb, losing only three of the nine games they played during a tour in which they were fêted throughout. Celebrities including Hollywood stars lined up to meet them and the nation's President, Warren Harding, kicked off one of their matches in Washington.

It was a very different scenario that Dick, Kerr's stepped back into on their return to England, where the women's game — minus the facilities withdrawn by The FA — was going into decline despite the best efforts of team organisers and players.

A continually dwindling number of teams was able to arrange charity games, while the high hopes which followed the birth of the



Lily Parr: better *than her* legend

by Martha Kelner

THERE ARE ONLY A FEW TOWNS IN ENGLAND, all of them in the north, where football is not the number one sport. It seems discordant that Lily Parr, the finest female footballer in history, should hail from one of them.

Opposite: September 15, 1938: Lily Parr, from St. Helen's at practice with the javelin. It was a part of her training with Preston Ladies football team. She played outside-left and scored 135 goals in the 1937–1938 season



began building a 350-metre tower on the site to rival the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Known locally as "Watkin's Folly" it was only partially built before financing difficulties put an end to construction. When the building of the first Wembley stadium began the foundations of Watkin's original design had to be detonated and the hill on which they stood levelled for construction.

The building of the new stadium was a key part of the British Empire Exhibition of 1924, which was conceived of to celebrate what was then the British Empire and the industry and accomplishments of the countries it encompassed. Delayed by the First World War, it was launched at the 1921 Imperial Conference when the then Prince of Wales, and later briefly Edward VIII, who gave impetus to the exhibition by calling for the building of a "great national sports ground."

Among the contributors to the £750,000 cost of the Empire Stadium were the Football Association (£10,000), who had agreed to play FA Cup Finals at the stadium during the time of the Exhibition, and Glasgow city council (£105,000), responding to the royal imperative to celebrate Britain's economic might. The stadium with its two towers—later known as "the twin towers"—was designed by architect Sir Owen Williams and built by the Sir Robert McAlpine Company over 300 working days.

It was built with a capacity intended to be around 127,000, with open terraces in much of the stadium and no roof—it was added later. There were 25,000 tons of concrete poured in its construction and 2,000 tons of steel and half a million rivets used. At its greatest height, pre-roof, it reached 23 metres. As the finishing touches were put to it in the days before the 1923 FA Cup Final, 1,200 men were brought in to test the construction by standing and sitting in unison.

It was always the intention that the Empire Stadium, along with the other great buildings of the 1924 Exhibition, would be demolished once the show had closed. That uncertainty over its future characterised the history of the old stadium right up to its demolition. The fact that it outlived its original planned life-span and thrived for decades to become one of the most famous sporting venues in the world was more the consequence of determined individuals than a master-plan hatched before its construction.

The original Wembley could not have had a more extraordinary first day.

The FA Cup Final, on April 28, 1923, is one of the great sporting events in British history.

April 1923: Putting up turnstiles for the West Ham United v. Bolton Wanderers Cup Final





1950: The players fight their way along Henmore Brook during the Shrovetide match at Ashbourne, Derbyshire

sorbing game? An astonishing *three miles* separates the "goal posts" between which the ball is moved along road, through town, field, uphill and down dale in a series of "hugs," like a giant rolling maul in rugby. At times, this tight scrum moves at just a few yards an hour with the ball generally carried rather than kicked.

The "goals" as such are on the sites of two former mills and are made up of mill stones mounted on purpose-built stone structures.

To actually score a goal, there are none of the modern-day aids of a corner, a free-kick or even a well-executed one-two.

Oh, no. In this game they like to make it as difficult as possible. In this game you must strike the ball against the mill stone not once but three times to register a goal.

And from a standing position in the river. And you can only score at your own end.

If the goal is registered after 5.00 p.m. the game is over for the day and the scorer is presented with the ball, one of the greatest honours for any Ashbourne resident.

If the goal is scored before 5.00 p.m., the ball is marched back through the town and presented to the secretary of the Shrovetide committee at the historic Green



1947: The "hug" continues as the players cross a frozen fish pond in a scrum in an attempt to reach the goal

not for the faint-hearted."

So what are the real rules? These are:

1. *No trespassing on other people's property (though people have sometimes been seen to shin up drainpipes with the ball).*
2. *The ball must not go into churchyards, memorial gardens or building sites.*
3. *You must not intentionally cause harm to others.*
4. *The ball must not be hidden from view in bags or rucksacks (should it be out of play for more than an hour the game is void).*
5. *The ball must not be transported in a motorised vehicle (car, bus or motorbike).*

Each successive year, of course, brings with it new attempts to circumvent these rules.

In 2008, one of the sides slipped a second ball into "the hug" to try and confuse the opposition. A new rule was immediately put in place saying that such action also meant the game was void.

But by and large the Royal Shrovetide Football Match is undertaken in a spirit of immense goodwill and fair play.

And a feeling of tremendous local pride in its longevity.

Of course, as we have seen, it was not the only Shrovetide football staged in the Mid-



Frederick J. Wall, the Secretary of The Football Association from 1895 to 1934

The men *who built The FA*

by Kevin Garside

THERE IS A TENDENCY WHEN CASTING OUR GAZE BACKWARDS OVER TIME to package events in neat parcels, to organise the past in categories for classification. ¶ In so doing it is easily forgotten how the great moments in history, piled on top of each other in chronological order for our convenience, were often wrought in a chaotic present, rarely according to some grand design but rather a pragmatic solution to a pressing concern. ¶ It is fair to assume, that the august group of amateurs from the great schools and universities of England who, out of their love of the game, bore unto us The Football Association in a tavern in London's legal quarter, Lincoln's Inn Fields, could not have conceived its grandiose present at Wembley and St. George's Park.



Charles Alcock, creator of The FA Cup tournament

shape the future of the game; international competition, in this case between England and Scotland, and The FA Challenge Cup, the most powerful developmental instrument in the history of football, and one that would ultimately usher in the professional age.

Alcock's idea for the Cup tournament derived from Harrow house matches, which were sudden death, knockout affairs. Built around The FA Cup, fixtures contested by member teams acquired a degree of permanence that had been missing in the game's early years, when matches were organised as friendlies, arranged haphazardly and might go ahead or not.

Alcock was part of the first great triumvirate of FA officers alongside Major Francis Marindin, who assumed the presidency in 1874, and the great Arthur Kinnaird, who learned the game at Eton and captained Corinthians, and who was appointed The FA's treasurer in 1878. They were the last of the gentlemen players, public schoolboys who would take the amateur game to its logical conclusion, and oversee the beginnings of the professional era.

By 1881, the number of affiliated clubs in The FA had grown to 128.

By 1885, there were 28 county affiliations represented. The old amateur attitudes were confronted by the march of time. The game meant something else to the masses in the industrial provinces north of Watford, where professionalism was brewing.

The emergence and growth of newspapers carrying reports helped spread the febrile atmosphere around cup competitions. The game was changing irrevocably, and The FA with it.

In his memoirs, William Pickford, who served on the rules committee for forty years and ascended to the post of FA president in 1937, recorded how in the 1880's the value of early match reports were recognised by newspapers. Short recaps were written by members of FA staff who had attended games. One of his jobs at The Bournemouth Guardian was to go to the office on Saturday evenings, collate the results of matches on large sheets of paper as they were telegraphed to the newspaper and stick them in the windows of the office for inspection by crowds who would gather there for the purpose.

With this increased interest came heightened competitiveness.

The northern clubs would import players from Scotland. Underhand payments were a feature of this period and clearly a threat to amateur mores.

By the mid-1880's Alcock was signing off claims from match officials, who were entitled

to second-class rail travel and taxi expenses, plus five shillings in sundry expenses if travelling more than thirty miles and ten shillings if an overnight stay was required.

Players, too, were remunerated in small sums. In Semi-Finals and Finals of The FA Cup participants could claim rail travel.

So demanding had the role of FA Secretary become, Alcock appointed in 1883 a clerk to work alongside him at an annual salary of £75.

By 1881, The FA had acquired its own office space: one room in Paternoster Row, which was approached by a rear staircase.

Four years later, in 1885, the organisation moved into premises at 51 Holburn Viaduct at a rental price of £80 per year. This was also the year when payment to players was first sanctioned, ushering in the age of the professional footballer. By then the season had been set at September 1 to April 30 and referees had their own FA guidebook, which was the first step in recognising their central role and inviolable authority.

Under the aegis of Marindin in 1882, the acceptance of universal laws in England and Scotland was agreed behind closed doors in a Manchester hotel.

This was the first step along a road that would lead to broader international competition, a governing body to administrate it, FIFA, and a tournament that would globalise the sport in the twentieth century: the World Cup.

Stanley Rous
Secretary of The Football Association, 1934 to 1962, and President of FIFA, 1961 to 1974

Alcock led the first panel investigating the issue of payment to players, a practice that in the early 1880's The FA had sought to outlaw.

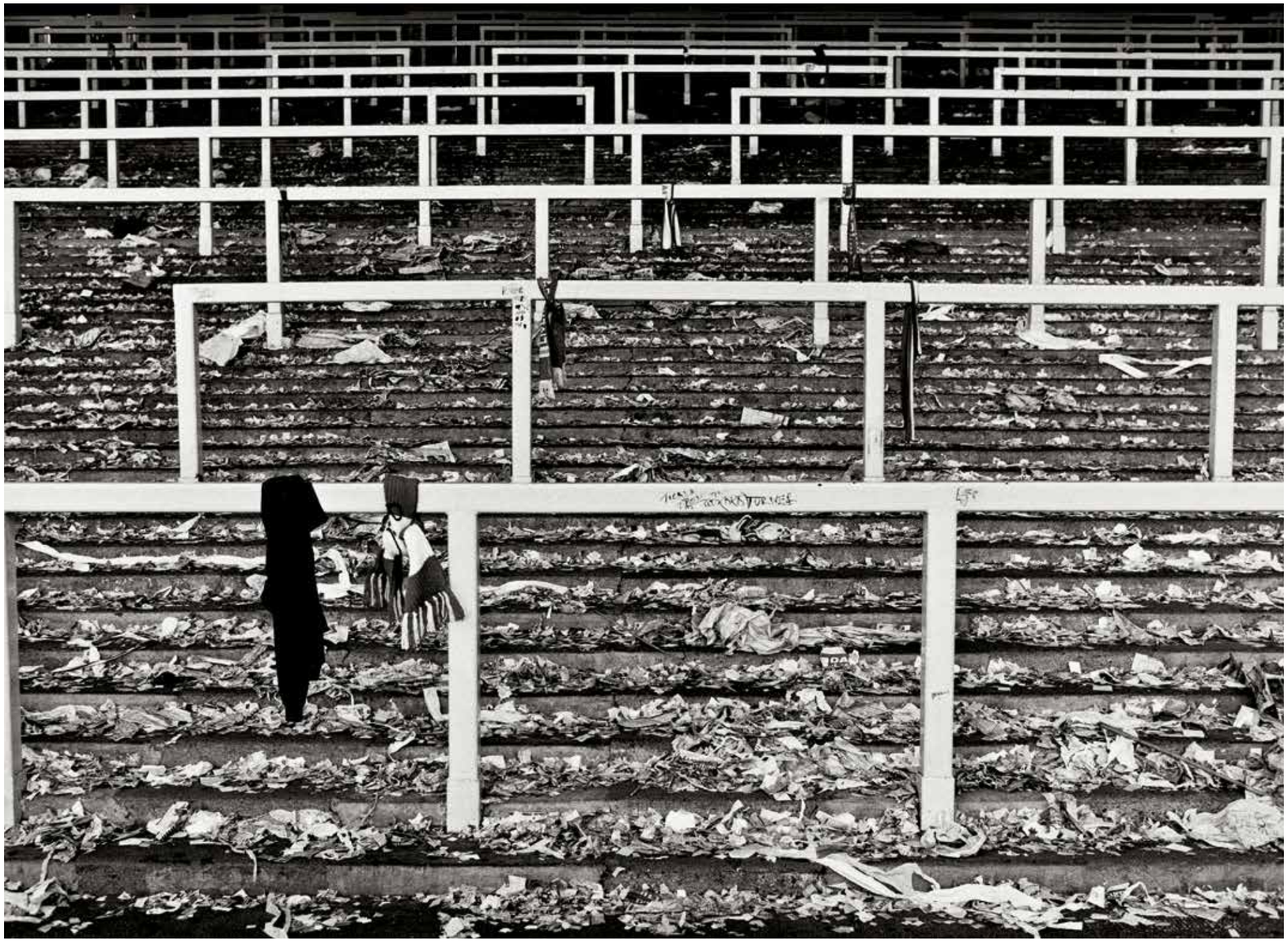
The pace of change and the movement of players, particularly from Scotland to the clubs in northern England, forced The FA to accept that a tide was sweeping over the landscape that could not be halted.

The FA was buckling under the weight of complaints from rival teams over the legitimacy of players. It took four years but in July 1885, a process began by Alcock was ratified; payment, albeit under stringent conditions, was legalised.

The next adventure concerned the make-up of the administration itself, hitherto unchallenged in its southern, establishment bias.

A feeling among the powerful northern associations, that their growing influence was not reflected in the running of the game, began to take hold. The matter of representation was forced at the General Meeting of 1886 when Secretary Alcock failed to secure election to the FA Committee, the decision-making instrument of the executive.





The old Anfield Kop in Liverpool, which was designed by Scottish architect Archibald Leitch in 1906

its criss-cross steelwork running the length of the pitch.

Leitch died in 1939. Yet when England staged the World Cup in 1966, six of the eight venues used had Leitch stands or terraces still in evidence.

Probably his best work in England, the Trinity Road Stand, built in 1922–24 at Villa Park — the scene of more FA Cup Semi-Finals than any other ground — was demolished in 2000. But another, the charming Johnny Haynes stand at Craven Cottage, Fulham, built in 1905, has been preserved and is now a Grade II listed building, as is the pavilion alongside it.

Only one other football related stand in England, at Highbury, the home of Arsenal from 1913–2006, has equal statutory protection. Opened in 1936, the East Stand was the most expensive and best appointed in the land. Costing £130,000, it had lifts, padded seats, a cocktail bar and heated flooring in the dressing room.

Since Arsenal relocated to their new Emirates Stadium, the stand and its opposite number, built in 1932, has been converted into highly desirable apartments, with the pitch in the centre forming communal gardens.

The early threads of The FA Amateur Cup were woven in early 1893. Sheffield FC responded to the decline in performances of amateur clubs in the new "professional" FA Cup by offering to provide a cup for which amateur clubs alone could compete. This generous offer was declined by The Football Association but all wasn't lost.

The Football Association resolved to commence a tournament in October 1893. The tournament rules, which were drawn up, were almost the same as those for The FA Cup. And so The FA Amateur Cup was born.

N.L. Jackson, who was the chairman of the Amateur Cup sub-committee of The FA, set about purchasing a suitable trophy, paying £30 for what was described as a "magnificent trophy."

The inaugural tournament was competed by eighty-one clubs, with a qualifying round of eighteen teams kicking off on October 21.

Clapton withdrew for financial reasons, enabling Norwich Thorpe to be given a bye to the second qualifying round.

There were some remarkable mismatches during that first year. New Brompton beat Maidstone, 7-0, in the first qualifying round, with Beeston defeating Lincoln Lindum, 8-0, in the next round. Rushden upstaged them all with a twelve-goal haul against Hunts County, although the losers were at least fortunate enough to score a consolation goal.

That first Final was played at the Athletic Ground, Richmond, on April 7, 1894. Old Carthusians beat Casuals, 2-1, with Buzzard and Stanborough the scorers in front of 3,500 fans. The entrants included twelve clubs representing the old boys of leading public schools. The first tournament featured teams from throughout England. Old Carthusians, the winning team, was comprised of former pupils of Charterhouse School.

The Carthusians had won England's premier national tournament, The FA Cup, in 1881, and thus became the first team to win both cups. The only other club to achieve this feat was Wimbledon, who won The FA Amateur Cup in 1963 and The FA Cup in 1988.

For the second year of the tournament, it was decided that the thirty-two competing clubs would consist of the four Semi-Finalists

March 1966: Top-hatted Charlie Thompson has signposted the way to Wembley for his team, Alvechurch, on top of a "graveyard" of the clubs that Alvechurch have already eliminated in The FA Amateur Cup. Next up are Wealdstone, in the Semi-Final match at Stamford Bridge.

Next page: February 15, 1965: The closing stages of The FA Amateur Cup third round match between Alvechurch and Wealdstone at Lye Meadow. Alvechurch 4, Wealdstone 1





1966



When England ruled the football world

by James Shield

"WELL, WE'RE ALL FOOTBALL CRAZY AND IT'S PLAIN TO SEE. That we're all so happy, like one big family. ¶ "Now we've found someone who makes the rafters ring. Welcome to a brand new soccer king." ¶ He might have been eulogising World Cup Willie, the much-loved mascot of the 1966 World Cup, but Lonnie Donegan had also perfectly captured an entire nation's mood.

Opposite: Residents of Claudia Street, Liverpool, decorate their street in anticipation of England winning the World Cup



Bobby Moore: a winner and an

icon

HE STANDS 20 FEET TALL, WEIGHING TWO TONNES, CAST FROM BRONZE.

¶ Bobby Moore gazes unerringly across the crowds as they walk up Olympic Way to Wembley Stadium, his arms folded, left foot balanced on a ball. It is the Moore of legend; composed and serene, his kit neatly pressed and not a hair out of place.

by Matt Dickinson

The man *who led England to the* top *of the world*

by Stuart Mathieson



THE ICONIC IMAGE OF ENGLAND'S FINEST HOUR IN 1966 IS THAT OF CAPTAIN BOBBY MOORE in a sweat-soaked red shirt on the shoulders of Geoff Hurst and Ray Wilson, thrusting the Jules Rimet Trophy skywards. ¶ This famous World Cup Final photograph has since adorned greetings cards, t-shirts and posters. ¶ The other unforgettable picture captured on that memorable July afternoon was never likely to become a marketing snap reproduced for future generations to wear or have adorning walls or souvenir mugs. But it was an equally never-to-be-forgotten moment frozen in time that captured the man who'd engineered the Three Lions' most famous 120 minutes.



Alf Ramsey played for Tottenham Hotspur from 1949 to 1955

As the final whistle blew on an exhausting, emotionally and physically draining Final against West Germany, Wembley erupted to salute Alf Ramsey's heroes.

A few seconds before, with England in sight of the finishing line, having carved out a 4-2 extra-time lead, the photographers had trained their lenses on the Wembley bench to capture the moment Swiss referee Gottfried Dienst signalled victory.

As the official's whistle shrilled England assistant Harold Shepherdson leapt to his feet. At the same time, trainer Les Cocker was half off the bench, leading the race to the pitch to congratulate the players and start the joyous scenes of elation.

The central figure of that framed moment should have been the prominent foreground celebratory image the newspapers wanted.

But Ramsey, the blue track-suited England manager, looked glum and sombre.

As a nation went wild the 46-year-old Freemason, central to England's success that special day, remained seated and unsmiling.

There was no modern day sliding on the grass and dirtying his trousers for this phlegmatic and unlikely hero.

It said it all about the undemonstrative man who'd just achieved what no England manager before him nor since has achieved.

The grocer's boy had truly delivered.

It was the pinnacle of a footballing success story that had begun in Dagenham in 1920.

Alf Ramsey's first introductions to football came in the simple form of kickabouts with his three brothers, but it was following in his father's footsteps as a grocer that became his initial ambition after leaving Becontree Heath School.

But he quickly also became hooked on football and grew into a gifted amateur footballer as a defender.

His path to greatness began as a non-paid player with Portsmouth and played for Pompey in the London War League.

Having performed in a south coast derby against Southampton, when he was stationed in Hampshire during the War, he switched to Portsmouth's rivals in 1943 and signed for the Saints on professional terms in 1944.

Ramsey wasn't the fastest. As an inside right, and later a centre half, he was an adequate performer. But he was to blossom as a right back and capture the eye of Tottenham Hotspur manager Arthur Rowe in 1949.

He'd already won the first of his thirty-two England caps at this stage.

The Spurs boss paid £21,000 for Ramsey, which was a record for a full back at the time.

The 29-year-old had stamina to burn and fitted perfectly into Rowe's "Push and Run" style at White Hart Lane. His distribution



necessarily those with the big reputations.

Once again it was a policy that would pay dividends in 1966.

But if Ramsey's new schemes on paper smack of dull workaday football designed for success rather than entertainment then you'd be wrong.

The First Division was won in style and Matt Busby, who knew a thing or two about putting attractive teams onto football pitches at Manchester United, was moved to praise the attacking easy-on-the-eye football that had taken Ipswich to the title.

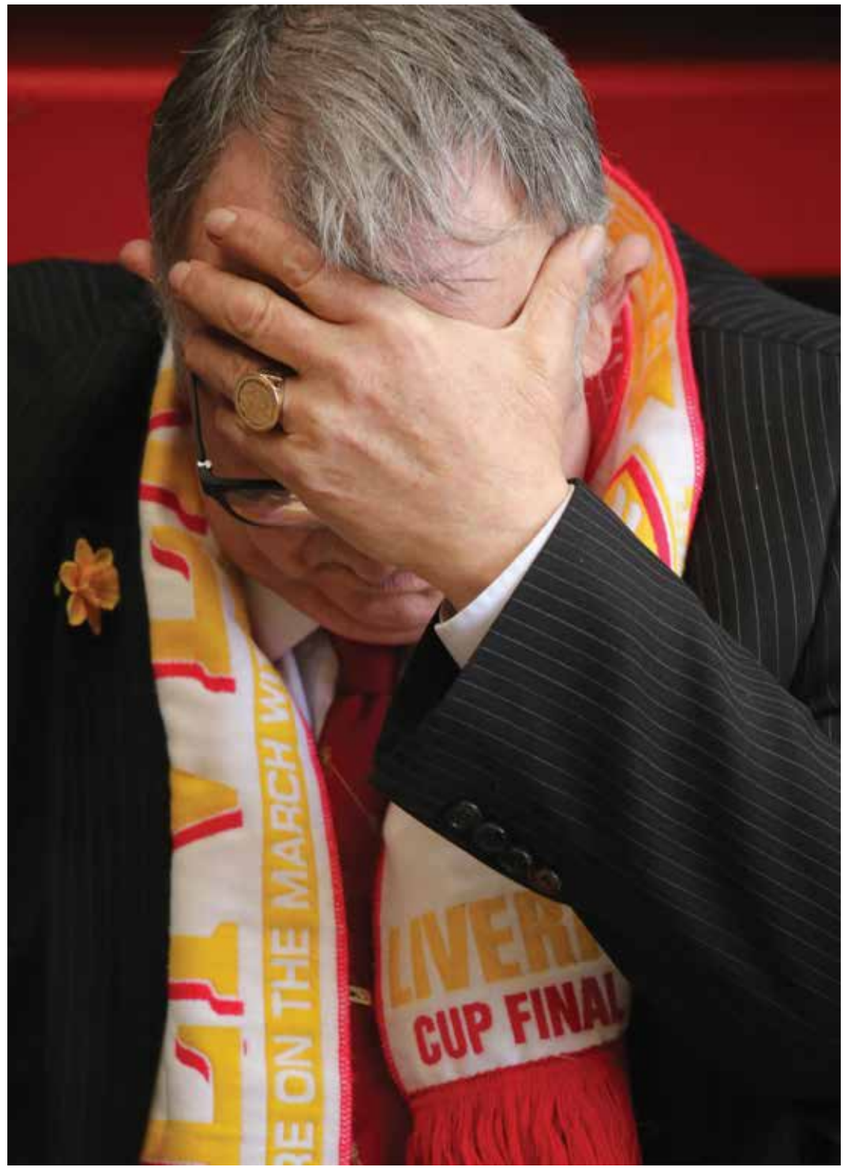
Ramsey's achievements were, significantly and increasingly catching the eye of The Football Association.

In 1962, the distinguished England manager Walter Winterbottom, who'd been in the role for 16 years since 1946, quit his post and became General Secretary of the Central Council of Recreation.

The FA immediately looked to Ramsey to take the national side forward and he was appointed in October 1962 but remained at Portman Road until officially taking over his England duties in May 1963.

One of Winterbottom's legacies was that he had finally persuaded The FA to ditch

July 29, 1966: A quiet but confident, Ramsey addresses the media on the eve of the World Cup Final



April 15, 2013: A Liverpool supporter grieves during the Hillsborough memorial service at Anfield on the twenty-fourth anniversary of the Hillsborough Disaster. Thousands of fans, friends and relatives took part in the service

The tragedies

at Bolton, Bradford City and Hillsborough, and the aeroplane crash at Munich that shook the football world



March 9, 1946: With the crowd in excess of 85,000 people at an FA Cup Quarter-final at Burnden Park in Bolton, thirty-three people were killed while attempting to escape from the increasing crush of the crowd

Opposite: The memorial window at a church in Dudley, which celebrates the life of Duncan Edwards, a home town favourite, who died after the Manchester United aeroplane crash in Munich in 1958

Next page: February 7, 1958: A rescue worker stands next to the debris of the aeroplane that crashed after taking off from Munich airport during a snowstorm. On board were players and staff of Manchester United, who were returning home from a European Cup second leg match against Red Star Belgrade. Twenty-three people died in the tragedy, including eight players from the team.




YOU'LL
NEVER
WALK
ALONE



May 2, 1953: Blackpool's Stan Mortensen (in the dark shirt, right) hammers in his side's first goal on his way to scoring a hat-trick in The FA Cup Final. Blackpool 4, Bolton Wanderers 3

150

games your grandfather told you about

by Colin Malam

FEW TASKS CAN BE AS DIFFICULT OR SUBJECTIVE AS CHOOSING THE 10 "BIGGEST" GAMES OF THE PAST 150 YEARS. For a start, there are so many to select from; and what do we mean by "biggest," anyway? Most significant? Most entertaining? ¶ Brian Barwick, the former chief executive of The Football Association and a contributor to this book, has described them as "the great games your grandfather would tell you about." So I've tried to stick as closely to that precept as possible.

was crowned Queen and Stan Matthews won an FA Cup winners' medal for the first time.

The first time in twenty years of trying, that is. At the advanced age of 38, the "Wizard of the Dribble" on the right wing destroyed Bolton's defence in the latter part of his third Final and helped Blackpool to an emotional 4-3 victory.

Ever since, that game has been described as the "Matthews Final"—even though a hat-trick was scored on the day by centre-forward and England colleague, Stan Mortensen. This feat, however, remains little more than a footnote in history.

In more than one sense, the 1953 FA Cup Final was totally different from the very first. In 1872, when the Wanderers met the Royal Engineers at the Kennington Oval, there was no centre-circle, no halfway-line and no penalty area, while a tape across the goalposts acted as a crossbar.

With a crowd of only 2,000 watching players wearing knickerbockers and caps, Morten Betts scored the only goal of the game for Wanderers. They then went on to win the second Final, 2-0, against Oxford University as well, with goals by Arthur Fitzgerald

April 28, 1923: Bolton Wanderers players wait for the police to clear the pitch of spectators, which allowed The FA Cup Final to kick-off after a 45-minute delay

nights in the club's trophy-laden history. It was the evening of May 29, 1968, at Wembley Stadium, when United met Benfica in the Final of the old European Cup.

United won 4-1, with two goals by Bobby Charlton and one each from George Best and Brian Kidd, to become the first English side to lift the continent's major piece of silverware. But it was far from the cakewalk the emphatic scoreline might suggest.

Three of United's goals came in extra time after Graca had cancelled out Charlton's first strike and goalkeeper Alex Stepney had saved heroically from Benfica's star, Eusebio, in the last minute. Best made it 2-1 early in the additional 30 minutes with one of the devastating solo runs that were his trademark, while Kidd added the third and created the fourth for Charlton.

It was a major triumph for Charlton and manager, Matt Busby, in more ways than one. This achievement came ten years after United's all-conquering young team — the "Busby Babes" — had been decimated by the Munich air crash, in which Busby nearly died and Charlton sustained injuries less severe.

Neither, however, showed more delight than Bob Stokoe, the manager of Sunderland, at Wembley five years later. Sporting a trilby and wearing a mac over his red tracksuit, Stokoe raced on to the pitch like a man possessed to congratulate his players on beating Leeds, 1-0, and becoming the first club from the old Second Division to win The FA Cup in forty-two years.

Stokoe made straight for goalkeeper Jim Montgomery to give him a hug for the astonishing double save he had made midway through the second half. First, Montgomery parried a point-blank header by Trevor Cherry; then, somehow, he managed to divert the ball on to the crossbar and away to safety when Peter Lorimer, he of the lethal right boot, followed up with a blistering shot.

Montgomery's heroics denied Leeds an equaliser and changed the game.

Leading after Ian Porterfield's first-half goal, but beginning to crack under Leeds' grinding pressure, Sunderland suddenly found new heart after their goalkeeper had made that miraculous double stop.

Leeds' own goalkeeper, David Harvey, had to save acrobatically from Vic Halom when Sunderland responded with a dangerous counter-attack late in the game as Leeds tried desperately to score. It was a season of disappointment for the Yorkshire club, who

May 5, 1973: Sunderland manager Bob Stokoe hugs his jubilant goalkeeper, Jim Montgomery, after Sunderland beat favoured Leeds United in The FA Cup Final. Sunderland 1, Leeds United 0



England's 57 *top players*

by James Pearce

THE ALL-TIME TOP 10

1. BOBBY CHARLTON

Manchester United (1956–1973), *Preston North End* (1974–1975)

2. STANLEY MATTHEWS

Stoke City (1932–1947), *Blackpool* (1947–1961), *Stoke City* (1961–1965)

3. BOBBY MOORE

West Ham United (1958–1974), *Fulham* (1974–1977)

4. GEORGE BEST

Manchester United (1963–1974), *Stockport County* (1975), *Fulham* (1976–1977)

5. GORDON BANKS

Chesterfield (1958–59), *Leicester City* (1959–1967), *Stoke City* (1967–1972)

6. DIXIE DEAN

Tranmere Rovers (1923–1925), *Everton* (1925–1937), *Notts County* (1938–1939)

7. KENNY DALGLISH

Celtic (1969–1977), *Liverpool* (1977–1990)

8. TOM FINNEY

Preston North End (1946–1960)

9. NAT LOFTHOUSE

Bolton Wanderers (1946–1960)

10. BILLY WRIGHT

Wolverhampton Wanderers (1939–1959)

England's top managers

by Ian Doyle



Herbert Chapman

WHO WILL BE THE NEXT FOOTBALL MANAGER? It's a question often asked when the axe is wielded by the latest chairman impatient his appointment has failed to turn an ailing club into trophy winners within a matter of months. ¶ Juggling the demands and whims of employers, players and supporters while under the constant glare of media scrutiny, and acutely aware the rug could be swept from under your feet at any time, demands special qualities. ¶ You need the management skills of an ace negotiator, an unshakeable belief in your own methods, the right backroom staff around you and the talent to bring the best out of your squad. ¶ And, of course, you also need a little luck.

The ten men we have selected as the pinnacle of their profession in the English game all had such characteristics by the bucketful. But they also had that special ingredient that sets them apart from their peers, the X factor that raises them above the everyday.

These are not just leaders of men. These are great leaders of great men they themselves have pooled together.

Innovators, inspirational, influential. And, above all, winners.

When it comes to achievement, the World Cup remains the one accolade to which everyone within the game aspires. So who better to start our list than **Alf Ramsey**, the only manager to lead England to glory in the competition?

Many thought Ramsey had taken leave of his senses when, shortly after being appointed England manager in 1962, he predicted his team would win the World Cup being played on home soil four years later.

Such confidence was born as much from his own abilities as those of his players.

Beginning his managerial career at Ipswich in 1955, he led the unheralded Suffolk side from Division Three South up to the First Division, remarkably winning the Championship in the club's first season in the English top flight in 1961.

But it was with England the Ramsey reputation was truly founded. Strict but fair, and rarely unpopular with his charges — he knew what to expect having appeared thirty-two times for his country as a player — Ramsey's real talent was his tactical innovation.

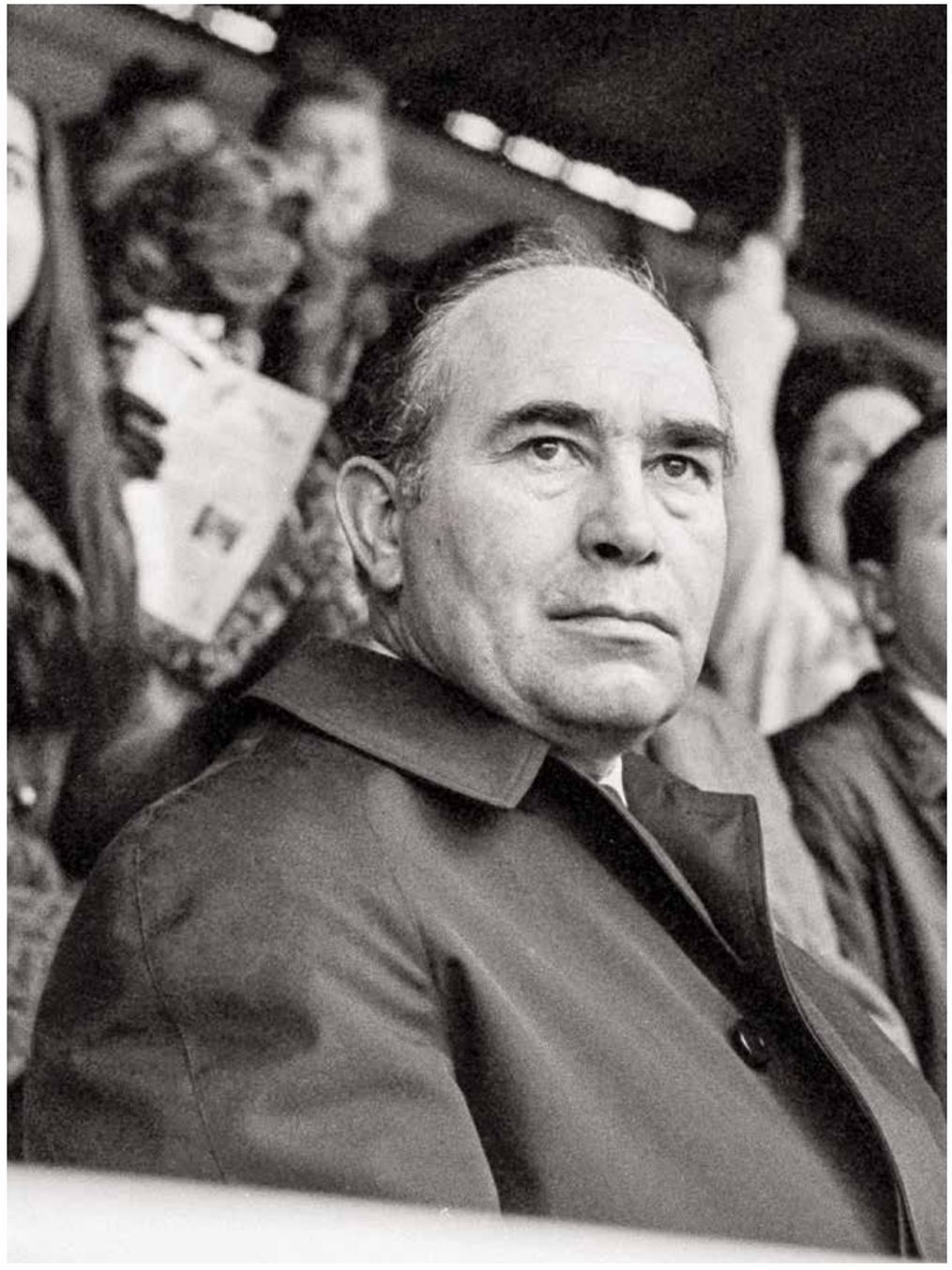
Dubbed "the wingless wonders," Ramsey's England progressed unbeaten to the 1966 World Cup Final where West Germany were beaten, 4-2, at Wembley in what remains the national team's greatest day.

England subsequently reached the Semi-finals of the 1968 European Championship but defeat to West Germany in their 1970 World Cup Quarter-final — surrendering a two-goal lead to lose, 3-2 — signalled the beginning of a decline that ended with failure to qualify for the 1974 World Cup.

Spells with Birmingham City and Greek side Panathinaikos followed, but Ramsey's place in English football folklore was forever assured thanks to 1966 and all that. He died in 1998.

Following a similar route to Ramsey was **Bobby Robson**, the man who came close to leading the Three Lions to their second World Cup Final.

Robson, again a former England player, began his managerial career at Fulham.



Alf Ramsey of Ipswich Town and England

first English team to win the European Cup. He retired as manager a year later before a brief return to the hotseat in 1970. He died in 1994.

What Busby did for United, so **Bill Shankly** did for Liverpool.

Arguably the most inspirational—and certainly the most quotable—manager of all time in the English game, Shankly arrived at Anfield in 1959 to take over a team in the Second Division whose glory days had long disappeared.

Shankly, a steely, determined and obsessive Scot, was a force of nature. A celebrated player at Preston North End, he managed at Carlisle United, Grimsby Town, Workington and Huddersfield Town before Liverpool came calling.

Within three years, they were promoted back to the top flight and won the League title in 1964 before their first-ever FA Cup Final triumph in 1965, which was followed by another title twelve months later.

But what set Shankly apart from his peers was the intense relationship he enjoyed with his club's supporters, who in turn worshipped the Scot. He was also behind a redevelopment of Liverpool's training ground and the introduction of the famous all-red kit.

He built a second team that won the League title and Liverpool's first European trophy, the UEFA Cup, in 1973 before a memorable undressing of Newcastle United in the 1974 FA Cup Final.

It was therefore a seismic shock when Shankly announced that summer he was quitting, a decision he ultimately regretted until his death in 1981, at the age of 68.

Shankly's replacement at Liverpool was his unassuming assistant, **Bob Paisley**, who had spent his entire professional playing career with the Anfield side.

Paisley moved on to the backroom staff in 1954 as a self-taught physiotherapist before being promoted to Shankly's number two on the Scot's arrival five years later.

Any fears Paisley would struggle to live up to his predecessor were soon proven unfounded. Although having a less gregarious personality, his astute knowledge of the game, quietly effective psychological ploys and ability to spot a quality player made Liverpool the dominant force, not just in England, but across the whole of Europe.

The Championship and UEFA Cup were won in 1976, and while the League title was retained the following year, it was a European Cup Final triumph over Borussia Moenchengladbach in Rome that truly underlined Paisley's prowess, completing the job Shankly had started years earlier.

The European Cup was lifted again twelve months later, and three more



Liverpool's Bob Paisley, left, and Bill Shankly

Championships, three League Cups and yet another European Cup followed before Paisley ended forty-four years of unbroken service at Anfield by retiring in 1983.

He died in 1996, his place long since etched in the annals of football history.

More than three decades after Paisley called it a day, no other manager has won the three European Cups.

"Shoot man, shoot," yelled the individual whose catchphrase earned him the name, "By Jove Allison,"—and he even claimed to have invented action during a dour game between Hull City and Port Vale.

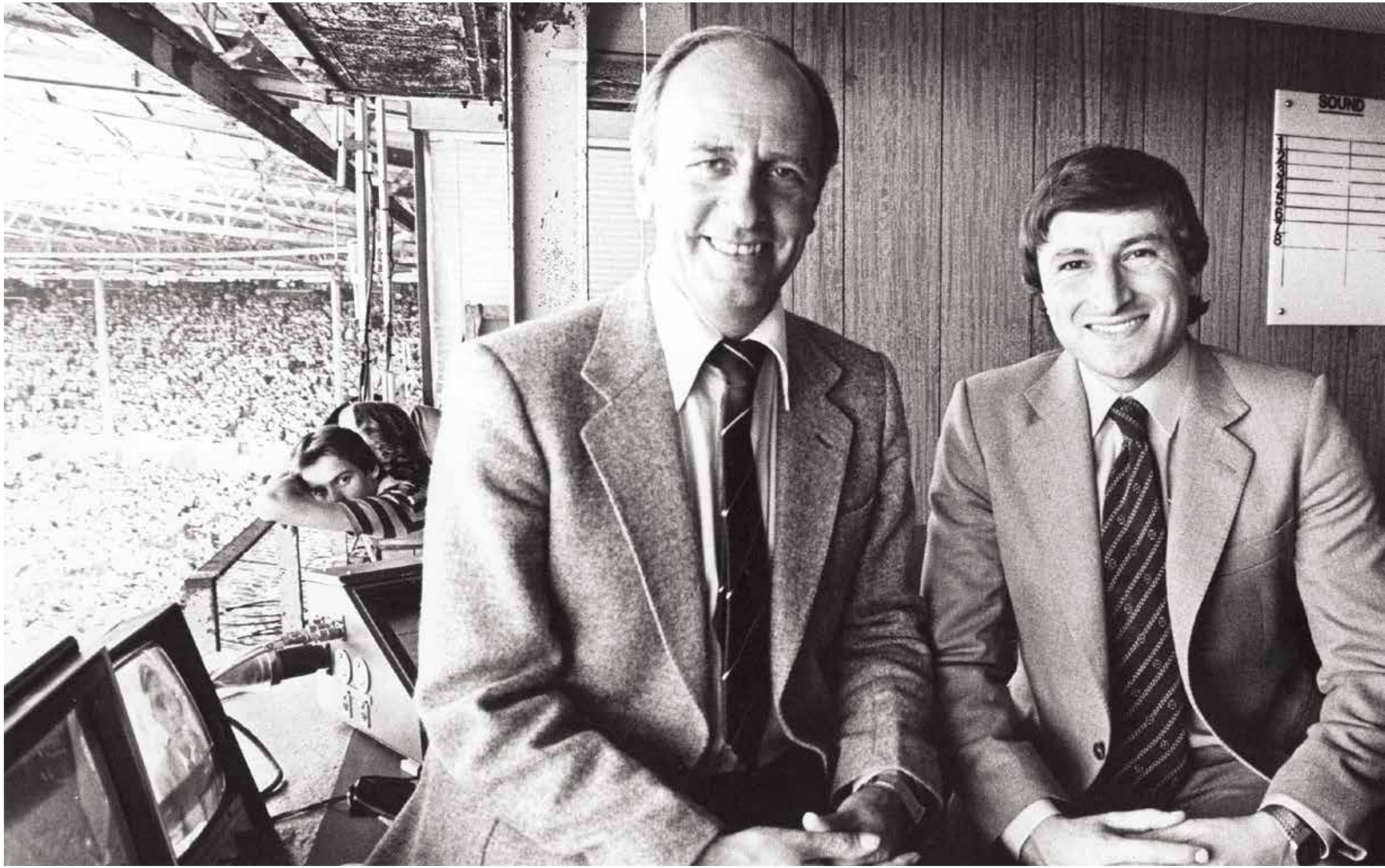
It was not quite the Bryon Butler style.

Charles Buchan got rather involved, too, summarising behind the microphone for the BBC during England's 7-1 humbling in Budapest in 1954. He recalls in his autobiography how he "could not help passing remarks and groaning every time something went wrong," which, not unreasonably, was fairly often. Buchan didn't realise that a microphone picked up all his remonstrations.

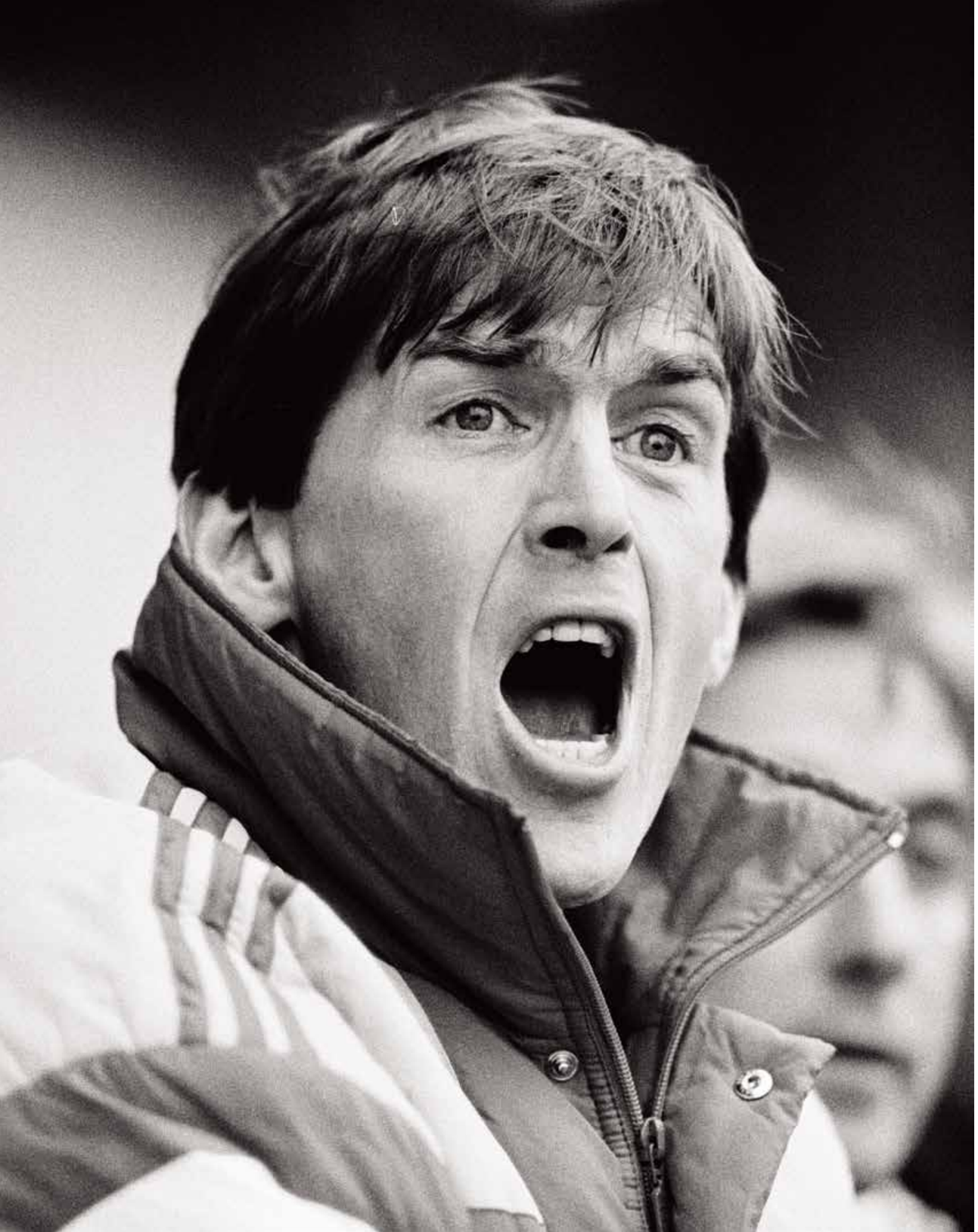
Still, it didn't halt the former Arsenal striker's rise to celebrity status.

Kenneth Wolstenholme, the legend among these early legends, was just as absorbed, though possessing a composure befitting a man who flew an extraordinary 100 missions as an RAF bomber command pilot over Germany. (Note: few men survived more than 10 such raids in those dark days.)

Holding his microphone under a handle-bar moustache and horn-rimmed spectacles he breathlessly proclaimed, "It's in the net! It's in the net" in May 1961 after Terry Dyson's



August 16, 1980: Sports commentator Brian Moore, left, and Jim Rosenthal in the press box before kick-off



At the start of the 1960's Spurs, managed by Bill Nicholson, became the first team to repeat the League and Cup double which Preston achieved in the founding season 1888–89 followed by Villa in 1897.

They then signed the goalscoring machine, Jimmy Greaves, from AC Milan for £99,999 thus avoiding him being labelled the sport's first £100,000 player. Greaves stayed nine years and was the League's leading scorer in four of those seasons but, despite Spurs winning two FA Cups and the European Cup Winners' Cup during that time, they did not win the First Division again.

In 1972, a young upstart, Brian Clough, gate-crashed the League's title race and won it for unfashionable Derby County.

It was a triumph which put the charismatic Clough on the map but, when he later turned up at Leeds as successor to Don Revie, who had left to become England manager.

He lasted only 44 days.

Clough had branded Leeds cheats for what he considered was the indisciplined manner in which they lifted the 1974 title. He told the players to throw all their medals in the bin because they had not been won fairly.

February 27, 1988: Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool player/manager, during the match against Portsmouth at Fratton Park. Liverpool 2, Portsmouth 0

It was not a match made in heaven and Clough was sacked after winning only one game in six.

But Clough, aided by his assistant Peter Taylor, had magical qualities with what were deemed lesser clubs and what seemed to be run-of-the-mill players.

When he arrived at Nottingham Forest, Clough transformed them too into title winners in 1978. In doing so, he became the first manager to win the League with two different clubs since Chapman.

Clough took Forest to even higher levels, winning the European Cup two years in a row in 1979 and 1980, but he was always regarded as a controversial figure.

By contrast, Liverpool manager Bill Shankly was revered throughout the land.

The Reds boss famously argued that football was not a matter of life and death, it was much more important than that.

He established the modern Liverpool, winning the title in 1964 and 1966 and building a club which dominated English football through the 1970's and 1980's. Liverpool won the title eleven times between 1973 and 1990.

Shankly surprisingly retired in 1974 after fifteen years in charge. Bob Paisley, a loyal member of Liverpool's bootroom took over and won six titles.

Grassroots football: the games down the

street

that count the most

by Mat Kendrick



1913: An amateur football team from Kettering, Northamptonshire

MIDWAY THROUGH THE SECOND HALF, with the match in full-flow, a goalkeeper lazily leaning against a goalpost, suddenly stands upright and barks an urgent message to his outfield colleagues. ¶ It is not "squeeze," "man on," "clear it" or any other blunt instruction aimed at improving his team's prospects of victory; it is a more panicked, "STOP! THIEF!"—but in a cruder vernacular. All 22 players abandon their positions and race from the field to the sidelines where a gang of dastardly youths are trying to break into, and make off with, a midfielder's sportscar. ¶ With more haste than they have managed all game, the footballers from both sides circle the two would-be thieves, effecting a citizen's arrest and detaining the culprits until the police arrive. ¶ The young hoodlums are let off with cautions, while the match, played more than a decade ago and featuring this writer, eventually resumes and ends in a 10-10 draw.

the community and keeps young kids out of trouble, with something positive to focus on."

Along with Chelsea defender Terry, fellow Three Lions internationals including Ray Wilkins, Ledley King, Sol Campbell and Jermain Defoe all made their names with the club, which runs more than twenty teams from under-sevens to under-18's.

Leading coaches, too, began their footballing educations at Senrab, with Premier League managers past and present such as Alan Curbishley and Chris Hughton, England assistant manager Ray Lewington and Crewe Alexandra stalwart Dario Gradi boasting strong connections with the club.

When it comes to longevity the weekend park pitches are full of stories of dedicated club men who can rival and even better Gradi's thirty-year stay at Gresty Road, none more so than Jimmy Davies, who clocked up fifty years of service on at a club he founded and managed on Merseyside.

Davies, who helped establish Waterloo Dock AFC in 1963, announced his retirement from the Liverpool County Premier League club around the same time Alex Ferguson retired from Manchester United—and with

March 18, 2012: A player takes corner flags to a pitch at Hackney Marshes, East London, which has been hosting Sunday league football since 1947



