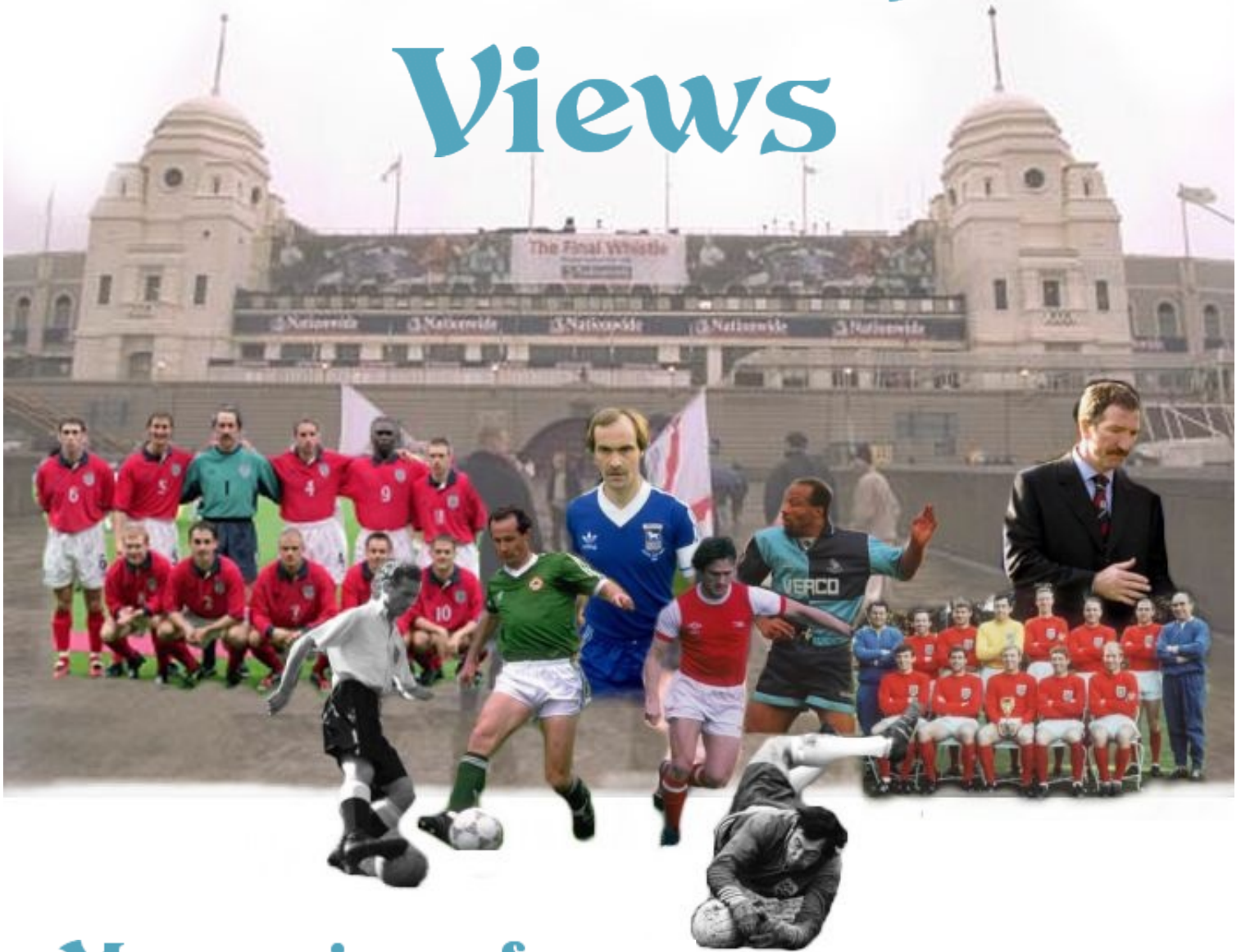


Wembley Views



**Memories of
Wembley Heroes**

Wembley Views

The first F.A. Cup Final was played at Wembley in 1923 and became known as “The White Horse Final” It was played between Bolton Wanderers and West Ham United with Bolton winning by two goals to nil.

Since that famous and historic game there have been many important and exciting games played at Wembley. These have been all types of Cup Finals as well as Internationals.

We thought that to commemorate the final game having been played at Wembley, we would obtain the views and memories of some of the famous players who have graced the Wembley turf.

It was very kind of the following players to have helped us with the completion of this booklet. We hope that you enjoy the read and imagine watching all these, playing against each other at Wembley. It would be a once in a lifetime game and would match any foreign opposition!!

Roger Hunt, the former Liverpool and England striker, replied to our question and it isn't very difficult to guess which was his favourite memory of Wembley. He also kindly attended school assembly in order to receive the first copy of the magazine.

**Jon Howells
Doug Fitzgerald
Neal Edmondson**

The Teams

R. Clemence

J. Armfield

P. Thompson

A. Hansen

M. Mills

D. Platt

R. Wilkins

G. Hoddle

D. Tueart

T. Francis

S. Heighway

C. Regis

A. Hartford

Manager

G. Taylor

G. Banks

P. Rice

M. Lawrenson

B. Robson

L. Brady

R. Clayton

J. McIlroy

G. Souness

Sir T. Finney

R. Hunt

J. Aldridge

G. Francis

A. Shearer

Manager

J. Royle

Referee: Neil Midgley

Ray Clemence

Former Liverpool, Tottenham Hotspur and England Goalkeeper. He has captained England and is currently the England and Spurs Goalkeeping Coach.

“Captaining my country. Walking out at the head of the team in front of good people, knowing you are the one among millions of people who has been selected to lead the country. There’s not a football feeling or emotion better in the world.”



1982 ~ England v Brazil



Jimmy Armfield

Former Blackpool and England captain. He now commentates on Radio 5 Live.

“The game was the Football Association’s centenary match when England fielded a team that included some of the best footballers in the World. In the opposition side there were players such as Alfredo Di Stefano (one of my all time greats), and Ferenc Puskas. England won 2 – 1. Jimmy Greaves scored the winning goal and I was captain of that England side!”

1963 – England v Rest of the World XI



Phil Thompson

He was a former Liverpool and England Defender, who also captained England.

“England were playing Bulgaria at Wembley, the game was to be played on a Wednesday night but was called of because of fog, it was rearranged for the following night. Kevin Keegan, who was our captain, had to return to Germany to play for his club side Hamburg. On Friday, in Kevin’s absence, Ron Greenwood our manager asked me to captain my country for the first time. This was my best and proudest memory of Wembley.”

1979 ~ England v Bulgaria



Alan Hansen



Former Liverpool and Scotland player at the heart of the defence. He captained his country and is currently a TV football pundit on BBC's Match Of The Day.

“My greatest Wembley memories are the European Cup Final 1978 and the FA Cup final 1986. It was great to play in these major finals at a stadium with so much history and charisma.”

1978 – Liverpool v FC Bruges

1986 – Liverpool v Everton



Former Ipswich Town defender who had the honour of captaining his country.

Mick Mills

He is currently still involved with Ipswich Town.

“My greatest memory of Wembley was lifting the FA Cup, turning to our supporters and hearing the roar. Also, receiving a letter from my old headmaster saying that only 100 people had been captain of an FA Cup winning team at Wembley from the millions that would have given their right arm to do that. This told me how lucky I had been.”

1978 Ipswich v Arsenal



David Platt

Former Aston Villa player and England Captain. He is currently managing the Nottingham Forest side.

“Captaining my country for the very first time against San Marino. Walking out at the head of the team capped an unforgettable week for me. The fact that I scored four goals added to it.”

March 1993 ~ England v San Marino



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# Ray Wilkins

**Former Chelsea, Manchester United and QPR midfielder. He had the honour of captaining his country, England. Now currently coaching at Chelsea.**



“The 1983 Cup Final. Manchester United v Brighton. It finished 2 – 2 and I scored United’s second goal, a left foot shot from about 25 yards out – very enjoyable!”

**Manchester United v Brighton 1983 FA Cup Final**

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Glenn Hoddle

Played for Tottenham Hotspur and earned caps for his country, England. Has managed Chelsea and England during France 98. He is now the manager at Southampton.

“My fondest memory of Wembley was my England debut against Bulgaria. I scored the second goal. To score a goal on your international debut for England at Wembley is something special.”

1979 – England v Bulgaria



Dennis Tueart

Former Sunderland and Manchester City striker. He is currently a Director of Manchester City.

- “1. The long drive down Wembley Way with the twin towers ahead and your fans lining the route!
2. The adrenalin pumping as you wait at the bottom of the tunnel before you walk into a cauldron of noise as you enter the stadium.
3. Scoring a spectacular winning goal in the League Cup Final of 1976 against Newcastle United.”

1976 – Manchester City v Newcastle United

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# Trevor Francis



**Former Birmingham City, Nottingham Forest and England striker. International. Currently the manager of Birmingham City.**

“ My International Debut against Holland, we played in front of a full house losing by two goals to nil. But it was still a memorable day.”

**1977 ~ England v Holland**

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Steve Heighway

Former Liverpool striker and Eire international. Steve is currently the Director of Liverpool Football Academy.

“My best memories of Wembley were scoring in the FA Cup Final for Liverpool against Newcastle in 1978. Also in 1978 I was part of the European Cup winning side. That was really special!”

1978 Liverpool v Newcastle (FA Cup Final)

1978 Liverpool v FC Bruges (European Cup Final)



Cyrille Régis

Cyrille Régis primarily played for West Brom. He also played for Coventry City and Wycombe later in his career.

“Winning the FA Cup in 1987. We were the underdogs but our team spirit brought us through. Looking at the scoreboard flashing 3 – 2 was a magical moment.”



Coventry City v Tottenham Hotspur 1987 FA Cup Final



Asa Hartford

Asa played for West Bromwich Albion, Manchester City, Nottingham Forest and Everton. He was a Scottish international and now works for Manchester City.



“Playing at Wembley for the first time way back in 1970. Unfortunately, the team I was playing for (West Brom) lost 2 – 1 to Manchester City in the League Cup Final. Wembley is renowned for the immaculate condition of the playing area, but shortly before that cup final the Horse of the Year Show had been held on Wembley and therefore reduced the pitch to something resembling a quagmire. Inclement weather in the days before the cup final only exacerbated the problem. To cap it all I played poorly and was substituted after an hour or so. Being aged nineteen at the time, I thought it was the end of my world, but I was fortunate enough to return on a number of occasions with far happier memories.”

March 1970 ~ West Bromwich Albion v Manchester City. League Cup Final.



Former England manager. He is currently the manager of Watford.

Graham Taylor - Manager

“Watford winning the First Division play-off final to win promotion to the Premiership. When the game was over walking on the pitch and turning to see 36,000 Watford fans in their colours of red, yellow and black giving a “rainbow” effect to Wembley.”

May 31st 1999 Watford v Bolton Play-Off Final

Neil Midgely - Referee

As a kid, I like just about everybody else who loved football, dreamed of hopefully becoming a professional and having the opportunity to appear at Wembley.

I watched many matches there, live and on TV, and always my mind was preoccupied on dreaming of what it would be like to walk up that tunnel, enter onto the beautiful green pitch, gaze in awe at the massive crowd and finally walk up the steps to the Royal Box.

My dreams came true, albeit as a referee, when in the early 1970's, I was appointed to referee the FA Vase Final at the hallowed stadium. Thrilled would be an understatement, as the fact that only 13,000 spectators were present, two amateur teams playing did not detract from the importance of the occasion. As we walked up the tunnel, a dream was becoming reality, the hairs on my neck stood up, a chill run down my spine as we became switched on for the job in hand. Wonderful!

This feeling was exactly the same again in 1987 when I had the honour to referee The FA Cup Final - Coventry City v Tottenham Hotspur – a truly magnificent match ending 3-2 in favour of Coventry City after extra time. Remembered as a great match with a goal from a diving header by Keith Houchen out of the top draw. A full house, no problems, meeting HRH The Duchess of Kent my dreams all came true. I had the opportunity in my career to referee 11 times at the old stadium and the joy and thrill never diminished from the first time through all 11 occasions to 1987. I have spoken to players and officials all over the world who loved the place, and who too realised their ambitions of appearing at the home of football – everyone wants to sample the experience. I shall miss the old place when it is demolished, but I can, like thousands of others retain the memories forever.

Gordon Banks



Former Leicester City and Stoke goalkeeper, who won many England caps. Gordon was rated one of the finest goalkeepers ever on the world stage.

“Definitely the 1966 World Cup Final. For me, the most memorable moment was when Geoff Hurst made the score 4-2. It was just unbelievable, the greatest achievement in football. But to win the World Cup at Wembley in front of our home fans was just fantastic.”

1966 – England v West Germany

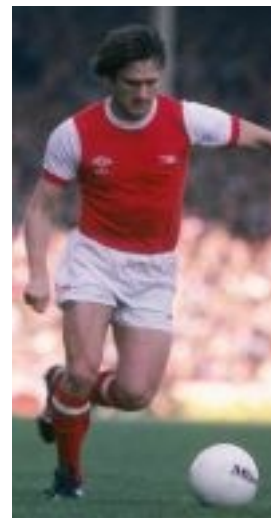


Pat Rice

A former Arsenal and Northern Ireland International player, at the moment he is Assistant Coach at Arsenal.

“Winning the F.A. Cup in 1971 with Arsenal to complete the double. It was such a hot day, and I remember asking our Physio to go up and get my medal as I was so tired.”

1971 ~ Arsenal v Liverpool



Mark Lawrenson



Centre back and former Liverpool player. He won a number of caps for Eire. Mark is now the voice of football on Radio 5 Live and works as an analyst on Match of the Day.

“The F.A. Cup Final in 1986 is my favourite memory of Wembley Liverpool had a superb 3-1 victory against their Merseyside rivals Everton. We did a lap of honour and was a great thrill being greeted so warmly by the fans.

One funny story from the match occurred as we returned to the changing rooms. In the team bath there were three of our own supporters who were fully clothed. That must have been a Wembley first.”

1986 – Liverpool v Everton

Bryan Robson

Former captain of Manchester United. He was also a former England captain. Bryan is now the current manager of Middlesbrough.

“My special evening at Wembley was in 1982 when we beat Hungary 1 – 0 to qualify for the World Cup Finals in Spain.”

1982 – England v Hungary



~~~~~ Liam Brady



Former Arsenal and Eire left-sided midfield player. Liam is now head of youth development for the Gunners.

“It was my first game at Wembley, England v Republic of Ireland. It was a dream come true for me to play there. My other abiding memory was winning the FA Cup 3 – 2 v Manchester United. In all, I played there seven times, and each one of them is memorable.”

1978 – England v Republic of Ireland

1979 – Arsenal v Manchester United

~~~~~ Ronnie Clayton

Former Blackburn Rovers and England Captain. He is now in charge of stadium tours at Ewood Park.

“ England v Brazil, the game nearly all footballers want to play at Wembley – It was something special. Brazil were probably the best team in the world at the time, England had the like of Duncan Edwards, Billy Wright, Tommy Taylor and Tom Finney. I remember we beat them 4-2.”

1958 ~ England v Brazil



Jimmy McIlroy

Northern Ireland International and former Burnley player. A stand at Turf Moor, Burnley's ground is named after him.

“The first time I played at Wembley for Northern Ireland against England, I was amazed at the beautiful turf. It was like playing on a snooker table, and I thought to myself ‘if I can’t pass accurately on this surface, it is entirely my fault.’ Incidentally we beat England 3-2 and I scored a remarkable penalty. The ball struck the upright, then rebounded off the back of the diving goalkeeper Eddie Hopkinson’s head, over the line much to my relief. Every footballer wanted to play at Wembley in an F.A. Cup Final. I was fortunate to be in the Burnley side that lost 3-1 to Spurs. Surprisingly, the atmosphere was disappointing compared to the electrifying atmosphere found in every other cup-tie I played in. I put this down to so many fans being neutral, due to, in those days, only a small percentage of the tickets being sold to the fans of both teams, while the rest were distributed throughout the British Isles.”

England v Northern Ireland 1956

Burnley v Tottenham Hotspurs 1962

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Graeme Souness

He was a former Middlesbrough, Liverpool and Scotland player, captaining both Liverpool and Scotland. Also a previous manager at Rangers and Liverpool, he currently manages Blackburn Rovers.

“ My first game was a European Cup game in May 1978, Liverpool v Bruges and it happened to be at Wembley. A European Cup Final is an incredible experience to play in and the fact that it is being played at Wembley makes it more special. 95,000 of the 100,000 at Wembley were Liverpool supporters. It wasn’t the best of games although we did win 1-0 (Kenny Dalglish scored) This was my first experience and my best experience. I played at Wembley many times afterwards, both International games and Cup Finals, but that day was very special.”



May 1978 ~ Liverpool v Bruges

Sir Tom Finney

The former Preston North End and England winger. He is still very much involved with Preston as he is currently the Club President.

“Playing at Wembley during the War years for PNE against Arsenal in the War Time Football League. Won cup in 1940/41 when we drew 1 – 1 and beat them in the replay at Blackburn Rovers’ ground 2 – 1. I was only 18. From 1946, after the War I played many times for England at Wembley. My biggest disappointment was losing to West Brom in the 1954 Cup Final with PNE.

However, it was always a great thing to play at Wembley with a wonderful atmosphere and as a professional, it is everyone’s ambition to play there.”



1940/41 – PNE v Arsenal

1954 – PNE v West Brom



Roger Hunt

Former Liverpool and England goal scorer. He was a member of the 1966 England World Cup winning team. He’s now retired after running successful businesses for many years.



“To play in a World Cup Final is a special memory in itself, but to play in England’s World Cup Final victory at Wembley was wonderful. My special memory of that day was Geoff Hurst scoring the fourth goal near the end of the game, and knowing that we were The World Champions.”

July 30th 1966 – England v West Germany



John Aldridge

Former Tranmere Rovers and Liverpool striker. He was also a former Eire international, playing in a World Cup Final, and is currently manager of Tranmere Rovers.

“I remember the F.A. Cup Final 1989, it was a Merseyside Derby, scoring with my first touch of the ball just four minutes into the game. It was my best memory of Wembley.”

1989 – Liverpool v Everton F.A. Cup Final 1989



Gerry Francis

As a player Gerry Francis played for many clubs including QPR, Coventry, Swansea City and Bristol Rovers. He was also an England international. He has managed Exeter, Bristol Rovers and Tottenham. He is currently the manager of QPR.



“Every game at Wembley was special for me, especially leading out my country as captain of England! I was very lucky never to lose at Wembley as a player. But perhaps the most special for me was a Home International game against Scotland in Front of 100,000 people at Wembley when we won 5 – 1 and I scored two goals.”

England v Scotland May 1975



Alan Shearer

Started his career at Southampton. He won the Premier League with Blackburn in 1995 and moved to Newcastle for a record £15m in 1996. He has just retired as England captain.



“Scoring my first goal for ages after a lean spell. It was a great feeling to see my name on the score sheet again after a string of games without hitting the back of the net.”

Euro 96 – England v Switzerland



Joe Royle

As a player, Royle played for Everton, Manchester City and Bristol City. He won the FA Cup as manager of Everton and now manages Manchester City. The game he talks about is the play-off final between Manchester City and Gillingham in 1999. It looked like it was Gillingham who were going to win then:

“We were 2 – 0 with 2 minutes to go, we equalised with injury time left and won on penalties after extra time.”

May 1999 - Manchester City v Gillingham



We Thank Everybody Who Contributed To This Magazine



Is This The Future?