



CUP OF CHEER AS LIVERPOOL

Robbo's robbed



IT'S THE

From NIGEL CLARKE in Stockholm
Sweden 2, Poland 1

● **BOBBY ROBSON** was left shaking his head in despair last night as Sweden claimed a dramatic injury time winner here in this World Cup qualifying tie.

● Robson and coach Don Howe saw the size of the task England face as the Swedes, without five of their top stars, fought back to claw a tremendous victory.

● For the Poles, who come to Wembley next month, exploded a stunning equaliser with just four minutes to go.

● And for Robson a 1-1 draw would have been just the result he wanted for England.

● But with the last kick of the game Sweden got a shock winner that left Robson saying: "I am not smiling."

● England must face Sweden here in September, and already the match is a sell-out.

● Robson had always predicted England would make it to the



ROBSON: Frustrated

World Cup finals, but he saw for himself how difficult it will be.

● He added: "The Swedes will be buying champagne tonight, yet I thought I was going to get the result I really wanted."

● It was an ordinary match, between two ordinary teams until the goals went in.

● Sweden had taken the lead in the 77th minute when Roger Ljung headed home from six yards.

● But Poland got a sensational equaliser when substitute Ryszard Tarasiewicz bent home a 25-yard free-kick that stunned the Rasunda stadium.

● Robson could scarcely contain his glee, but with time already added on by referee Kurt Rothlisberger of Switzerland, Sweden's Nicolas Larsson scored from close range.

● Robson, smiling ruefully, turned to Howe, and shrugged his shoulders. England still have a mountain to climb.



Picture: ARNOLD SLATER

Group Two									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
England	3	2	1	0	7	0	5		
Sweden	3	2	1	0	4	2	5		
Poland	2	1	0	1	2	2	2		
Albania	4	0	0	4	1	10	0		

TO PLAY.— JUNE 3: England v Poland; SEPT 6: Sweden v England; OCT 8: Sweden v Albania; OCT 11: Poland v England; OCT 25: Poland v Sweden; NOV 15: Albania v Poland.

There was only one

LAND WEMBLEY DATE WITH EVERTON

NATION'S

FINAL!

Liverpool 3, Nottm Forest 1

THE NATION has got its wish — the memorial FA Cup Final. An all-Merseyside occasion at Wembley on May 20 is a fitting remembrance to the 95 who perished at Hillsborough.

Brian Clough kissed goodbye to the Cup he coveted most — the one that has eluded him for 35 years as player and manager — because Forest were confronted by more than just a football team at yesterday's Old Trafford semi-final. More even than Liverpool at their phenomenal best.

Clough's Forest babes faced something they will never come across again in their footballing careers.

They took on the will of the nation urging Liverpool to Wembley... and a team possessed in their determination to keep their word to their fanatical supporters, begging them to win the Cup for the injured and relatives of the bereaved.

Some of the survivors from the Leppings Lane terraces hobbled to Old Trafford on their crutches. How could the Liverpool players let them down? They couldn't. And they didn't.

I saw the faces of the Liverpool players when they stepped off their team coach.

Heads down, unsmiling, they were men of grim determination. They were out to win more than a mere football match.

Desire

Every single Liverpool player sweated blood in what has become a crusade to win the Cup.

Every single one tackled like a demon and ran himself into the ground.

Steve McMahon, the hard man, the heartbeat of the team, who showed so much compassion throughout the mourning on Merseyside, was uncompromising, unflinching in his commitment. Often over-aggressive, he deservedly became the only player booked in the 83rd minute.

Such were his efforts that the England midfielder anxiously shed his boots at the final whistle.

to air his painful blisters. John Barnes and skipper Alan Hansen followed suit.

Manager Kenny Dalglish, clad in ludicrous bobble hat and with a grin as wide as the Mersey, joined the emotional lap of honour.

Dalglish wrapped his arm around McMahon in recognition of his super-human efforts.

McMahon set an example the rest were glad to follow. He snarled and snapped at the heels of Nigel Clough, or anyone with the ball at his feet. The ball, according to McMahon's Law, belonged to Liverpool.

Even the Forest manager, who kissed Ted Croker at Wembley when he collected the Simod Cup to add to the Littlewoods, will, I suspect, not begrudge Liverpool their triumph.

Aldo's double delight

From HARRY HARRIS at Old Trafford



Clough sensed the occasion might be too much for many of his young braves when he described the "no-win situation" they faced before the match.

Clough's exciting new team had the credentials to topple Liverpool with an impressive total of 23 victories in their last 28 games, scoring 71 goals.

Urgent

But Forest froze. Even though they shared in the horror of Hillsborough 22 days before, Forest knew they would have been unpopular winners outside of their own fans.

Clough's treble Cup chance was destroyed by two-goal John Aldridge, the striker with a habit of FA Cup semi-finals goals against Forest.

A year ago the Republic of Ireland international

took Liverpool to Wembley with both goals in Liverpool's 2-1 win. And he has done it again.

Now he has the opportunity to make amends for last year's Cup Final penalty miss against Wimbledon.

More urgent matters relate to the championship chase. Liverpool will want history to repeat itself as four days after last season's semi-final victory over Forest they beat Clough's team 5-0 in the League.

Aldridge plundered the opening goal after just four minutes, courtesy of a blunder in Forest's defence.

Ray Houghton's cross was aimed for Barnes, but with two white shirts closing in there didn't look to be any real threat.

But Tommy Gaynor stumbled into Brian Laws and they fell over each other, allowing Barnes to take advantage of a tempting dropping ball to strike a powerful shot.

Goalkeeper Steve Sutton reacted instinctively, springing to a marvellous

save, but only pushing the shot out to Aldridge, who directed a looping header over the out-of-position Sutton.

Mistakes led to the Forest equaliser in the 33rd minute after a back header by the tall Lee Chapman caused concern in Liverpool's defence.

McMahon was caught out by the bounce, Hansen cleared only as far as Clough, who subtly laid it back to Neil Webb.

Stab

Webb's shot from just outside the box bounced a couple of times as Bruce Grobbelaar saw it late, and could only fumble the shot on to the post, grabbing it after it had crossed the line.

That was virtually Forest's first serious goal attempt. Liverpool replied with an Aldridge header against the bar from Barnes' cross.

Aldridge finally collected his second in the 57th minute after a superb short corner movement initiated by Houghton and Barnes.

Houghton's cross was finished off again with a header by the striker, taking his season's tally to 26 goals since missing that Wembley penalty.

The semi-final was well beyond Forest when Houghton, Aldridge and Peter Beardsley combined to force Laws to stab the ball over his own goalline, with Barnes hovering on the end of Beardsley's cross in the 72nd minute.

Liverpool have reached their ninth FA Cup final, and even by their own extraordinary standards, this will be their most significant Cup Final appearance by a very long way.

Thousands of Liverpool fans simply couldn't bear to be there yesterday. Some who came broke down and needed counselling.

Under all that weight of emotion Liverpool grieved, wept, remembered, and then in the name of their fallen fans set about the business of winning a Cup that many felt should have been abandoned.



CLOUGH IS KO'd

● DOWN and out: Brian Laws, on bended knee after putting through his own goal, gets a gleeful pat from the game's other scorer, two-goal John Aldridge. Pic: ARNOLD SLATER

KENNY GLORY

From back page

"We always knew we could do it. Everyone played his part and it was a great team performance."

Aldridge revealed that pressure from fans had persuaded him to change his mind about quitting the game in the wake of Hillsborough.

He said: "I wasn't interested in playing at the time and my chin was on the ground. But I had tremendous letters of support."

Liverpool's iron man Steve McMahon shut out Nigel Clough and became the target of the Forest boo-boys because of his fierce tackling.

He said defiantly: "Liverpool always aim to win at all costs. We got on top and simply never let go."

Both finalists are being asked by the FA to suggest a suitable replay date for the final — or accept a penalty shoot-out at Wembley.

team going to win?

KENNY DALGLISH