

WORLD OF SPORT
PRESENTS



LIVERPOOL

The official F.A. Cup commemorative
publication of Liverpool Football Club.

Foreword by:

BRIAN MOORE

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My seat is ready and waiting for me at Wembley on May 21st. And there is no better seat in the stadium. I know I must be the envy of thousands of Liverpudlians and Mancunians who have followed their team up and down the country, at great expense over the seasons only to miss out on the great chase for a Cup Final ticket.

If you are one of them, you have my sympathy—and I only hope that we can make it up to you with some spectacular television coverage of the game.

But going back to that seat for a moment—it is perched high above the stand in the commentary area opposite the Royal Box. There will be a microphone on hand, a pair of ear-phones and two colour television sets to see the picture that is going direct into your home. And a large pad of facts and figures that I have collected for days that tell me all—and more—that I need to know about the players. I hope!

Yes, there is always the element of doubt about a Cup Final. Like the players, a commentator hopes it is going to be the day when he does his best work of the season. It's live . . . and no mistakes or blemishes can be rubbed out.

But I love every moment of it. I know before we start that I shall feel the same tension as the most avid fan . . . I know I shall be close to tears when 'Abide With Me' is played . . . I know I shall be completely drained at the end.

I have seen Manchester United win a Cup Final at Wembley—in 1963 against Leicester when Gordon Banks could not stop them. And I've seen them lose—only last year when Southampton upset the odds in memorable fashion.

Just as I've seen Liverpool win at Wembley . . . in 1965 when Ian St. John's flying header finally subdued Leeds, and again in 1974 when it was no-contest against Newcastle; and I've seen them beaten . . . in 1971 when Charlie George helped Arsenal to the Double.

But who will be cavorting round the stadium this time. I'm making no prediction. It's purely a private argument for all you fans in the North and I'll mind my own business!

All I know is that it's a game that has already got me tingling with anticipation. And through the marvels of television, the exploits of these two great clubs will be seen far beyond Britain.

Sheep farmers in New Zealand will be staying up late to watch it; the traffic will stop in the crowded streets of Hong Kong; the camels will have to wait in North Africa; the sets will be switched on in the skyscrapers of Manhattan. Europeans everywhere already have the date marked in their diaries

Up the 'Pool! Come on United! The world is truly waiting.

BRIAN MOORE



Liverpool's fixture list has been so crammed with important games this season that we reached the semi-finals of the F.A. Cup almost without noticing it. We have been so busy, so involved both at home and abroad that we haven't even had time to plan our Cup games as minutely as in the past.

The F.A. Cup—as are all cup competitions—is about reproducing League form on the day. Yet so few teams are capable of doing this, particularly those who rely too much on brilliant individuals, that each year's semi-finalists are usually steady, reliable teams who have battled through the other rounds by sheer consistency.

Manchester United are the exception this year—though I believe they have fooled a lot of people into believing they are an all-out attacking side. For the last two years, United have entertained and done well. They fell by the wayside last year in the chase for the League and Cup, but no one can deny them their due. I respect them and I think they have been good for the game.

But they have proved they are capable of more than just attacking. Under pressure they get plenty of people behind the ball and Coppell and Hill drop back whenever necessary to provide extra cover. They, like us, have had the luck of the draw with a number of home ties on their way to the last four—and that's a vital factor in a good cup run.

You can ask for no more than a home draw in every round—but, of course, good cup sides need other qualities too. You have to be tight defensively, you have to have flair. But teamwork and consistency is the real key—great cup teams are those who hit normal form come what may. They aren't gripped by the fear that affects so many others over 90 minutes intense pressure.

You need that vital slice of luck too. We had ours in the third round tie against Crystal Palace at Anfield—but our replay performance was one of the best we have produced away from home all season.

This will be my first F.A. Cup Final as a manager—something of which I'm extremely proud. Not everyone can get to Wembley, and to be there as often as I have is a tremendous personal honour. I often look back to 1950, when I was Liverpool's twelfth man for the F.A. Cup Final against Arsenal. The disappointment I felt that year is reflected every May by players who cannot make the big day for one reason or another.

Knowing how I must have felt makes our unlucky players understand things a little better. But it's nice just to have been a part of getting there. An F.A. Cup Final is just as memorable an occasion for the fans as for the players. This year there will be the two most vociferous—and humorous—sets of supporters in Britain, if not the world, packed inside the stadium. They, like the players, will enjoy and savour every minute of one of the greatest sporting occasions in the world.

Without the fans, we couldn't have done it. Now we want to pay them back by lifting the trophy. See you all at Wembley . . .

BOB PAISLEY

EMLYN

Don Revie's apparent refusal to accept the qualities of Emlyn Hughes in the England camp had a bigger effect on the man himself than he thought it had. That, of course, was last autumn and since then, Emlyn has won back the England place he thought was "completely and utterly" gone for ever.

Revie, like Hughes himself, is very much a believer in horses for courses; in picking teams and players to do specific jobs. So when Emlyn was recalled for the Italian job, he knew he had not been forgotten after all. "Every time a squad was announced I'd be sick not to see my name in it," he recalls.

"I didn't think it had affected my personal displays, but it obviously had. I'd been thinking about it and if you're doing that, your mind is obviously not 100% on all it should be. Since I got back I've felt great—and I think I've played better too.

"This will be my third F.A. Cup Final though I don't really count the Arsenal game because I just never got to grips with it. Your first Cup Final passes in a blur, yet it's so special. You're lucky if you get there once let alone three times in six years. It's a tremendous honour and something you always look back on.

"People say we had an easy passage to the semi-final with only Middlesbrough proving difficult. In a sense it's true. We didn't pay enough respect to Crystal Palace in the third round and were a bit lucky to get through—but since then we've never given anyone a chance.

"Now it's make or break in three competitions in seven days—and that's unlikely ever to be equalled.

"All through we've taken each game on its merits—that's something you've got to do because you should never put all your eggs in just one basket."

Hughes' vintage displays this season and that incredible never-say-die spirit have been at the heart of the triple title bid. Ray Clemence sees his skipper from closer quarters than anyone else and sums him up.

"Since Emlyn got back into the England squad, his form has been a revelation. It seems as if this really meant a lot to him deep down; a sort of personal challenge. When we played in Italy, he was as proud as I've ever seen him.

"Since Phil Thompson has been out, Emlyn has taken on even more responsibility and is an even greater player because of it. He's at the heart of that back four and with him there it makes it that bit easier for everyone else. I always know he'll produce the same consistent performance every week."

Says Emlyn: "Looking back on the season I think my England recall has really crowned everything. Call me extra-patriotic if you like but just pulling on that England shirt means so much to me.

"I love the game so much that I regard it as the greatest honour of all just to play for Liverpool. With those fans behind us, how can we possibly go wrong at Wembley?"



CLEMENCE ON THE CUP

346,304 FANS WATCHED LIVERPOOL'S SEVEN F.A. CUP-TIES UP TO THE FINAL—BUT NONE WATCHED QUITE AS CLOSELY AS RAY CLEMENCE. ENGLAND'S GOALKEEPER TAKES YOU ON THE ROAD TO WEMBLEY, ROUND BY ROUND . . .

Round Three LIVERPOOL 0, CRYSTAL PALACE 0

"This was the tie we were lucky to stay in—the stickiest of all. We were pleased when we heard we had drawn them but I think we went out with the wrong attitude. We thought it would be easy—but realised after 20 minutes they could play. By that time it was hard to change—and we were lucky to get away with that score."



Johnson hits the dirt after a spectacular header.

Round Three—Replay CRYSTAL PALACE 2, LIVERPOOL 3

Scorers: Keegan, Heighway (2).
"Though the score suggests otherwise this was a comfortable win. It was never that close and we proved we'd learned a lesson."

"I know it's wrong but all First Division players tend to think that other players just aren't in the same class. It's a terrible thing but true. No matter how much you're motivated you can't help but think that non-First Division opponents just can't be as good. That, I think, was our problem against Palace."

Round Four LIVERPOOL 3, CARLISLE UNITED 0

Scorers: Keegan, Toshack, Heighway.
"The Carlisle game was played on a Jekyll and Hyde pitch—icy in one goalmouth, perfect in the other. We kicked into the icy end in the first-half and that made it difficult for their defenders. We scored goals easily and never looked like being beaten."



Toshack scores number two against Carlisle.

Round Five LIVERPOOL 3, OLDHAM ATH. 1

Scorers: Keegan, Case, Neal (pen).
"We got an early goal—then gave Oldham an equaliser. To be honest, David Shaw's goal was a very good one. But Jimmy Case rocketed in our second; Phil Neal finished it off with a penalty and that was that."

"Oldham played really well—in fact up to that stage they'd been doing well in



Above—Keegan scores number one against Oldham.

Division Two. Jimmy Frizzell says they have never played well since. I hope he doesn't blame us for wrecking any promotion hopes!"

Round Six LIVERPOOL 2, MIDDLESBROUGH 0

Scorers: Fairclough, Keegan.
Middlesbrough are always a very difficult side to play against—and they'd drawn 0-0 at Anfield earlier in the season. As the F.A. Cup was the only trophy left to them it looked a really tough one on paper."

"Then the 'Bionic Carrot' popped up with a goal out of nothing and it was all over. Kevin Keegan made it two. Once Middlesbrough have conceded a goal it's very difficult for them to change their attitude and try for goals themselves. Even so it wasn't an easy match."



Keegan heads number two past Middlesbrough 'keeper Pat Cuff.

HOW THEY GOT THERE

THIRD ROUND: LIVERPOOL 0, CRYSTAL PALACE 0

Attendance: 44,730
Team: Clemence, Neal, Jones, Thompson, Kennedy, Hughes, Keegan, Johnson, Heighway, McDermott (sub Fairclough), Callaghan.

THIRD ROUND REPLAY: CRYSTAL PALACE 2, LIVERPOOL 3

Attendance: 42,664
Scorers: Keegan, Heighway (2).
Team: Clemence, Neal, Jones, Thompson, Kennedy, Hughes, Keegan, Case, Heighway, Fairclough, Callaghan.

FOURTH ROUND: LIVERPOOL 3, CARLISLE UNITED 0

Attendance: 45,358
Scorers: Keegan, Toshack, Heighway.
Team: Clemence, Neal, Jones, Thompson, Kennedy, Hughes, Keegan, Case, Heighway, Toshack, Callaghan.

FIFTH ROUND: LIVERPOOL 3, OLDHAM ATHLETIC 1

Attendance: 52,455
Scorers: Keegan, Case, Neal (pen).
Team: Clemence, Neal, Jones, Thompson, Kennedy, Hughes, Keegan, Case, Heighway, Toshack, Callaghan.

SIXTH ROUND: LIVERPOOL 2, MIDDLESBROUGH 0

Attendance: 55,881
Scorers: Fairclough, Keegan.
Team: Clemence, Neal, Jones, Smith, Kennedy, Hughes, Keegan, Case, Heighway, Fairclough, McDermott.

SEMI-FINAL: LIVERPOOL 2, EVERTON 2

Attendance: 52,637
Scorers: McDermott, Case.
Team: Clemence, Neal, Jones, Smith, Kennedy, Hughes, Keegan, Case, Heighway, Fairclough (sub Johnson), McDermott.

SEMI-FINAL REPLAY: LIVERPOOL 3, EVERTON 0

Attendance: 52,579
Scorers: Neal (pen), Case, Kennedy.
Team: Clemence, Neal, Jones, Smith, Kennedy, Hughes, Keegan, Case, Johnson, Fairclough, McDermott.

F.A. CUP APPEARANCES/GOALSCORERS 1976-77

Appearances: 7—Clemence, Neal, Jones, Kennedy, Hughes, Keegan. 6—Case, Heighway. 4—Fairclough (+1 sub), Callaghan, McDermott, Thompson. 3—Smith. 2—Johnson (+1 sub), Toshack. Scorers: 4—Keegan. 3—Heighway, Case. 2—Neal (pen). 1—Toshack, Kennedy, McDermott, Fairclough.

Semi-Final LIVERPOOL 2, EVERTON 2

Scorers: McDermott, Case

"We were lucky to come out of it with a draw. Everton played extremely well—definitely their best performance for five years. We were pleased with the result because we could have lost."

"Here again perhaps our attitude was slightly wrong. Everyone had said it was a foregone conclusion and we might have been slightly over-confident. But we got away with it."

Semi-Final—Replay LIVERPOOL 3, EVERTON 0

Scorers: Neal (pen), Case, Kennedy.

"Between Saturday and Wednesday we really got ourselves just right and were motivated to go out and do a job. As a result there was only one team in it this time—us! The result was never in doubt."

"To have a home draw in every round was a tremendous boost—Wembley almost crept up on us. No one took much notice of us until the semi-finals—even we didn't appreciate how close we were to Wembley until then. That's what happens when you take each game as it comes."

RAY CLEMENCE

England's goalkeeper, Ray Clemence, has more Wembley appearances to his credit than anyone else in the Anfield dressing room—"It must be around 15 now"—but he'll still feel that gnawing tension in the pit of his stomach for more than 24 hours before he actually walks out.

"An F.A. Cup Final is still the major occasion in British football—it's the day of the year for everyone who plays the game. Long after I've finished I'll look back on the times I played there—not just in front of 100,000 fans but watched by 200 million television viewers right round the world.

"I tend to get very tense about a day before the really big matches—so I'll be going into a shell sometime on Friday. But it's good to feel that way—I'd be very worried if I didn't. Actually you never remember a thing about your first F.A. Cup Final—everything flies by in a flash.

"Back in 1971 I froze on the day we played Arsenal simply because the occasion was too much. I remember being at the banquet after the game and thinking 'Was that the F.A. Cup Final?'. That's how it gets you—that's why it's nice to go back a second time."

Ray Clemence makes the point, too, that experience is a key quality on the day. "I think when you take a look at our lads then United's you see a difference. I'm sure that quite a few of them froze against Southampton last year—this time they're going to be determined to make up for it."

Liverpool's home draw in every round has been an invaluable help in reaching Wembley for the third time in the '70's. "It seems we have crept into the Final almost unnoticed," says Ray. "Because we didn't play a First Division side until the quarter-finals no one seemed to pay much attention to us. Even the players didn't realise how far we'd got until we sat in the dressing room after the quarter-final and suddenly realised we were just 90 minutes away from Wembley!"

Traditional Wembley nerves apart, just how will Clemence feel when he emerges from that famous tunnel? "Well, I don't think I'll be as bothered as my first time there but the occasion will still get to me. It's probably the only time professional footballers get as excited as the fans about the prospect of a 90-minute match—it is as much an occasion for us as them.

"You know, the build-up starts for us about a month before—from the moment the semi-final is over. Yet there are still vital League matches to play in between so you can't just gloss over everything else until Cup Final day. We have taken everything on its merits this season—it's the only way to do it.

"And now, in just seven days, we have the chance of three trophies. After nine months of the First Division and the European Cup there's the climax of the F.A. Cup. A situation like that means you've just got to keep your head."





RAY KENNEDY

Six years ago, Ray Kennedy helped Arsenal clinch the first leg of their League/Cup double in the 2-1 extra-time win over Liverpool. As the burly, youthful, front running partner for John Radford, Kennedy emerged as a force to be reckoned with.

The man who was once rejected by Sir Stanley Matthews—he was an apprentice at Port Vale who was deemed not to have the star quality—and worked in a factory back in his native North-East before finding his way back into the game, has a habit of producing the goods at the right time.

Like the goal at Anfield for Arsenal which shattered Liverpool's Championship hopes in 1974—and the vital goals he has scored consistently all season for Liverpool to help the treble bid.

He's now, of course, a midfielder man—"the best left-sided midfielder player in the country" according to Emlyn Hughes—and keenly looking forward to his third F.A. Cup Final.

All in all, it's been quite a momentous 12 months for him. He forced his way into England's squad for last Spring's Home Internationals and American trip and has fought his way back into the national squad again with a string of impeccable performances.

"Ray's had an absolutely fantastic season," says Emlyn Hughes. "He's proved to everyone just what a good player he is. He had criticism when he played up front for us and even when he first moved into midfield, but hard work and dedication have made him a great player now."

So what is the particular asset he brings to the side? "Simply the fact that for 90 minutes week in, week out, he never stops trying," says his skipper. "Ray's strength is in the strength of others—if he's out there battling it makes everyone else do the same. He's a typical Liverpool player in that his effort is put into an overall team effort."

His rifled left foot goals have proved vital on so many occasions this season, too, as Hughes points out. "Every goal is, in its way,

vital but Ray's goals have usually proved to be matchwinners or points savers. The fact that he produces goals when they're needed is vital in itself."

The Kennedy record at Wembley so far—in F.A. Cup Finals—is played two, won one. So he's hoping this will be third time lucky with another win, his first with Liverpool . . .

TOMMY SMITH

Twelve years ago he wore the number ten shirt in Liverpool's F.A. Cup Final against Leeds United. With Ian Callaghan he is the last link with that team of more than a decade ago—a team which swept all before them in the '60s.

But, unlike 'Cally', whose long absence through injury might have cost him a Cup Final place, Tommy Smith, battle-scarred warrior of so many Liverpool campaigns and former club captain will be there for his fourth F.A. Cup Final.

In fact, it would be unthinkable for Liverpool to go to Wembley without him. Yet he has said this is his last season and so it might be his swan-song. Before Christmas he seemed to have exited for good from the stage he had trod so magnificently for so many years.

A summer in the United States helping spread the soccer gospel to the uninitiated and the emergence over the last four years of Phil Thompson to wear his former number four shirt meant that he started this season away from the roars of Anfield.

Phil Neal had taken over his number two shirt and, at 31, the man with the bionic tackle seemed to have no permanent place among the younger defenders. Just before Christmas, he announced his retirement at the end of the season. The papers all said nice things about him, thinking he would slip quietly away.

But, in one of those wholly unexpected occurrences for which football is so renowned, he bounced back when Thompson had to have a cartilage operation. He had almost 600 games under his belt when he stepped back into the arena



"In 1973 it looked as though my future was in doubt when Phil Thompson took over my position, but then I moved to right-back to cover for Chris Lawler when he was injured. I played there until Phil Neal took over—then Joey Jones arrived to take over the number three shirt."

He lived in hope of a recall, of course, but he could not have expected—or even wanted—it to be through Phil Thompson's injury. So he returned rather like a Roman legionnaire who had been away fighting another battle and has since played as key a role as anyone in bringing Liverpool to the verge of the treble.

Says Ray Clemence: "He's playing like an 18 year old. He seemed to be out of the side for good, then back he came to perform as well as ever—better, in fact. He's retiring, of course, which means he could well go out in a blaze of glory. Because it's his last year, there's no pressure on him. That's why he's enjoying things so much."

I've never seen a competitive spirit like his. He's never beaten and he's never panicked in his life.

And Emlyn Hughes agrees: "He's had a new lease of life since he's been back in the team and he's really done well. We couldn't have got as far as we have without him—that's the size of his contribution."

Tommy Smith insists that despite all that's happened in just five months, he will still quit the game at the end of the season. "I'm Scouse through and through and my loyalties lie on Merseyside. I couldn't leave the place because I would regard my new team as second best."

So there might even be a tear in Tommy Smith's eye at Wembley and though that's normally as unlikely as Bill Shankley becoming President of the Everton Supporters' Club, surely no one will begrudge him it . . .

TERRY McDERMOTT

If ever a team fell victim to the dreaded Wembley nerves, it was Newcastle United three years ago. As Liverpool crushed

them with what was the most potent attacking display in a final for years, one man stood out.

He was Terry McDermott, a young man who was sampling the big time for the first time. He'd not been long at St. James' Park—a £40,000 plus signing from Bury, first home of many a future star.

And as Newcastle tried in vain to repel the 'Red Army', he tried hard to keep his head above water . . . so successfully, in fact, that he became a Liverpool player not too long after.

But it's not been roses all the way ever since—not until an injury to Ian Callaghan gave Terry a chance to play a major part in the run-in to a possible three glittering prizes.

Emlyn Hughes has watched Terry's performance with increasing admiration. "Terry, for my money, must be the most improved player in the country since he came into the side. As much as anyone, he has been responsible for us getting to Wembley, to Rome and to the closing stages of the Championship. That's how highly I rate his contributions. The best part of it is that he must have planned all this."

"In the past he'd come in when someone was injured and done a good job for a few matches before, I thought, easing off and going out of the side again. What a difference now—he just gets better and better!"

That difference might be partly put down to confidence. When has there been a more confident semi-final opening goal than the delicate chip that fooled everyone, David Lawson included, in the first game at Maine Road?

"We'd talked about Lawson's tendency to come out a long way and Terry kidded him with that chip," says Emlyn. "We all thought Terry was going to blast it until he pulled it back and floated it in. That, for me, is the hallmark of an exceptional player."

Terry McDermott, says Emlyn Hughes, must have been waiting for a chance like this. He had obviously talked himself into being a better player—and has been determined to produce a high quality performance every match.

That's what you call a professional.



PHIL NEAL

Phil Neal, until two years ago a utility player at Northampton, has taken his rise to fame in a very level-headed way. The man who played in every position possible for Northampton—yes, even in goal!—has made the number two shirt his own.

It will be his first F.A. Cup Final—indeed, his first appearance at Wembley. But, says Ray Clemence, Phil definitely won't be overawed by the sense of occasion.

"Most people know that Phil is my room-mate and best friend at the club—so I think I'm in as good a position as anyone to know that Wembley won't get to him like it does to so many on their first time there.

"Phil adds an extra dimension to the team with his ability to surge forward and set things up. It's easy to see when you're playing with him, that he's got a tremendous awareness of every other player in the side and what their job is.

"I suppose he picked it up in his utility days at Northampton—in fact he often tells me he's a better goalkeeper than I am!

"Though it will be his first Final, I don't think he will be too nervous. As soon as the whistle goes, he'll be wanting to get involved. Phil has so much skill on the ground that I don't think he'd be lost in midfield. Add to that, his defensive qualities and the fact that he's no mean performer in the air and you've got a very good player indeed!" All of which Phil Neal will be no doubt relieved to hear . . .

JOEY JONES

A joke and a smile for every occasion . . . that's Joey Jones. Or, at least, that's the Ray Clemence assessment of the Welsh International left-back who has been an ever-present in the seven match F.A. Cup run so far.

We asked England's goalkeeper for assessments of the players immediately in front of him—the back four they say is Britain's best.

And, according to Ray Clemence, Joey Jones is very much a man for Wembley. "He'll love the occasion and the challenge that the match throws up. He's very much the opposite of Phil Neal in his approach—Joey just loves to be happy and gets enthusiastic about the slightest thing.

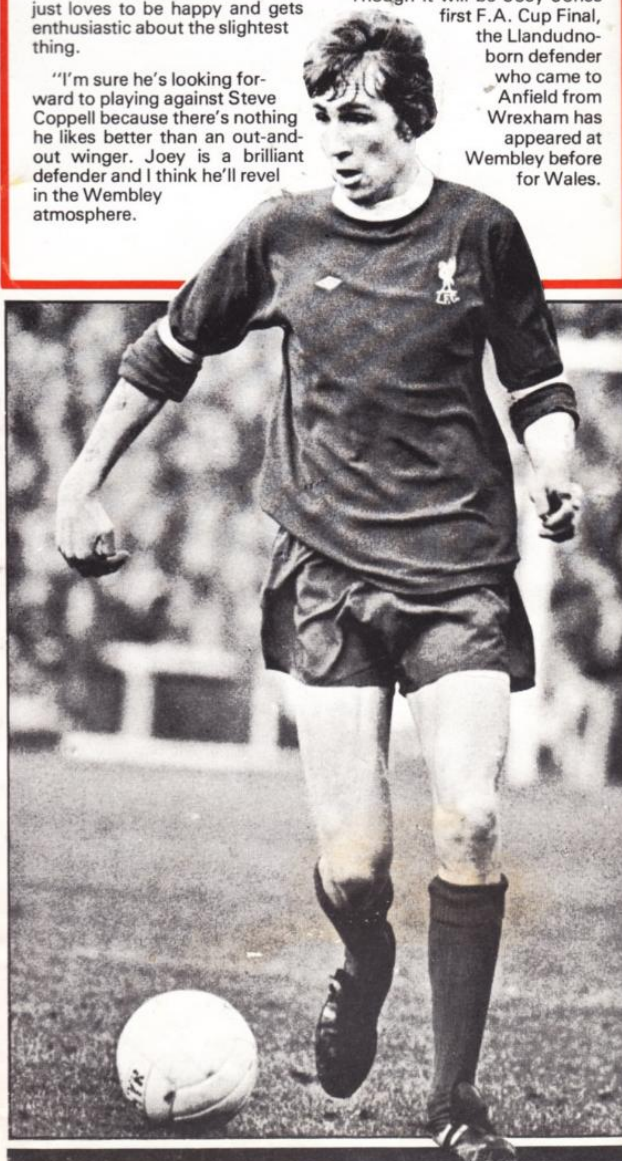
"I'm sure he's looking forward to playing against Steve Coppell because there's nothing he likes better than an out-and-out winger. Joey is a brilliant defender and I think he'll revel in the Wembley atmosphere.

"Certainly, he'll keep us smiling in the dressing room. I've never come across a more enthusiastic player and you just never see him without a smile on his face.

"He's just the sort of player every team needs, because he'll make you forget those tensions with one of his terrible jokes. He makes a joke about anything and everything—but the joking will stop once the game starts.

"Joey's experiences with Wales will put him in good stead for the most nerve-wracking game in British football. He'll love it."

Though it will be Joey Jones first F.A. Cup Final, the Llandudno-born defender who came to Anfield from Wrexham has appeared at Wembley before for Wales.





Semi-final day dawned, with Liverpool hotter favourites to drive up Wembley Way for the third time in the '70s than any other side has been for years. It was a foregone conclusion... a certainty. All they had to do was merely beat an Everton side, who had not had the best of luck in the League and League Cup.

But, as Ray Clemence ruefully says, Liverpool unfortunately believed in the build-up too much. "I think that for once we were lulled into thinking that it was going to be easy—that all we had to do was just stand there for 90 minutes.

"We were lucky to get the draw—but we made no mistake in the replay."

Liverpool certainly got on the wrong end of Everton's determination to go back to Wembley for a second time in a matter of months—as Alan Hoby wrote in the *Sunday Express* "The impossible dream—the unique and titanic treble of the European Cup, League Championship and F.A. Cup—lives on for Liverpool. But only just . . ."

It was the almost total dismissal of Everton by everyone that contributed to the scoreline with a shock. After Terry McDermott's brilliant chipped opener—"That goal had class written all over it," says Emlyn Hughes—Everton hit back when Duncan McKenzie fired through a crowd.

Jimmy Case got the lead back, only for Bruce Rioch to run the ball in, after a McKenzie run.





Three of the best—goalscorers Kennedy, Neal, Case

So Liverpool breathed again—and there were some red faces in the dressing room.

Four days later, another 52,000 plus packed Maine Road for episode two. But this time, there was no fairy tale ending, no cliff-hanging finish. Liverpool, as Ray Clemence succinctly puts it, "did a job."

An ice-cool penalty from Phil Neal finally cracked Everton's dogged resistance, then Jimmy Case and Ray Kennedy put it out of doubt. With no sparkle from McKenzie, Everton subsided and the 'Reds' were through to Wembley.

For the record the statistics were . . .

LIVERPOOL 2, EVERTON 2

Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Jones, Smith, Kennedy, Hughes, Keegan, Case, Heighway, Fairclough (Substitute: Johnson), McDermott.

Scorers: McDermott, Case.

Attendance: 52,637.

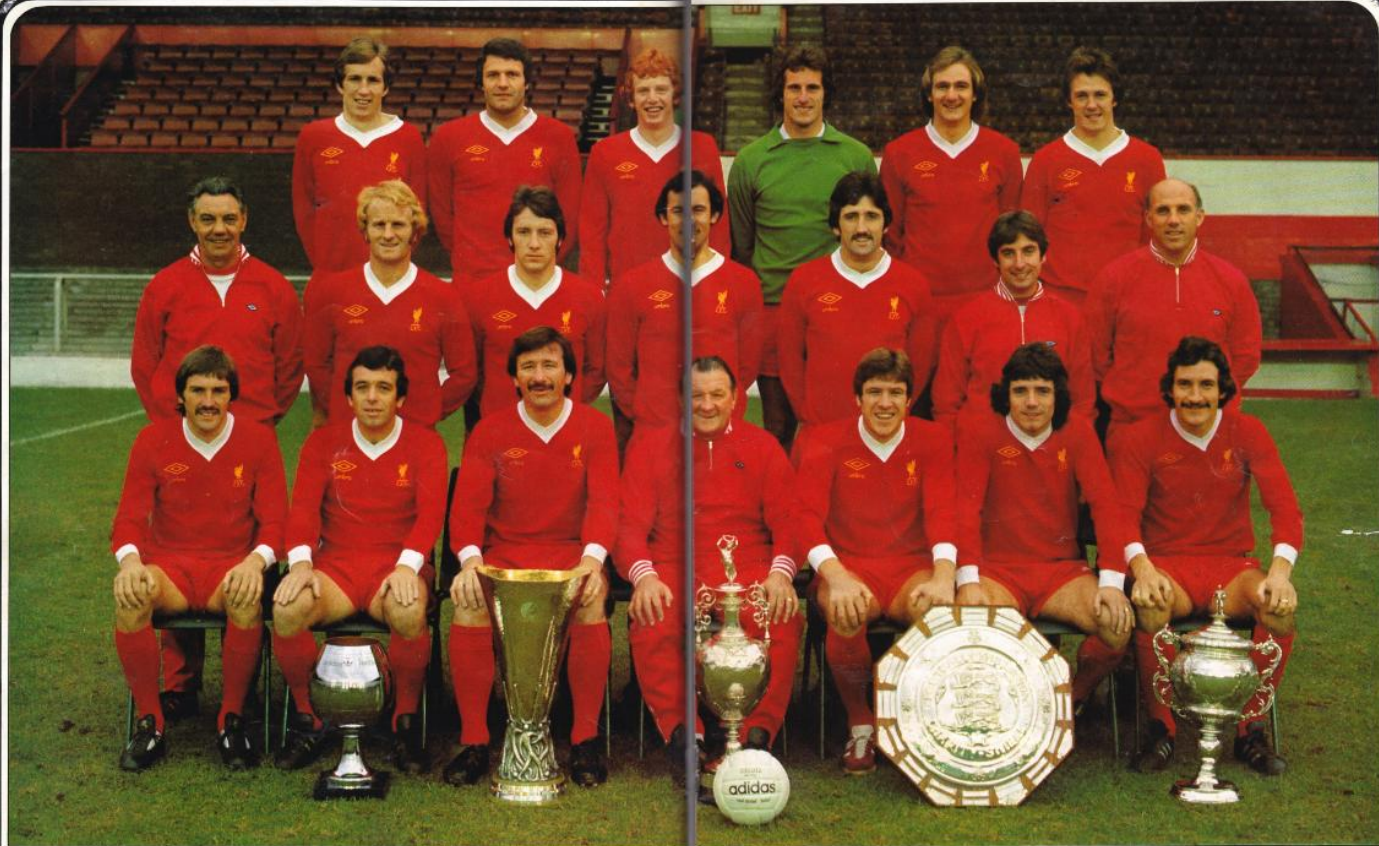
LIVERPOOL 3, EVERTON 0

Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Jones, Smith, Kennedy, Hughes, Keegan, Case, Johnson, Fairclough, McDermott. Substitute: Callaghan.

Scorers: Neal (penalty), Case, Kennedy.

Attendance: 52,579.





LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB—1976-77

Back row, left to right: Joey Jones, John Toshack, David Fairclough, Ray Clemence, Phil Thompson, Phil Neal.
 Centre row, left to right: Joe Fagan (coach), Alex Lindsay, Jimmy Case, Ray Kennedy, David Johnson, Roy Evans (trainer), Ronnie Moran (chief trainer).
 Front row, left to right: Steve Heighway, Ian Callaghan, Tommy Smith, Bob Paisley (manager), Emlyn Hughes (captain), Kevin Keegan, Terry McDermott.





Emlyn Hughes' gesture says it all . . . 3-0 was the score that took Liverpool to Wembley; there's not a little matter of the three trophies the 'Reds' are chasing; and now Emlyn has become the third Liverpool player to win the *Footballer of the Year Award*.

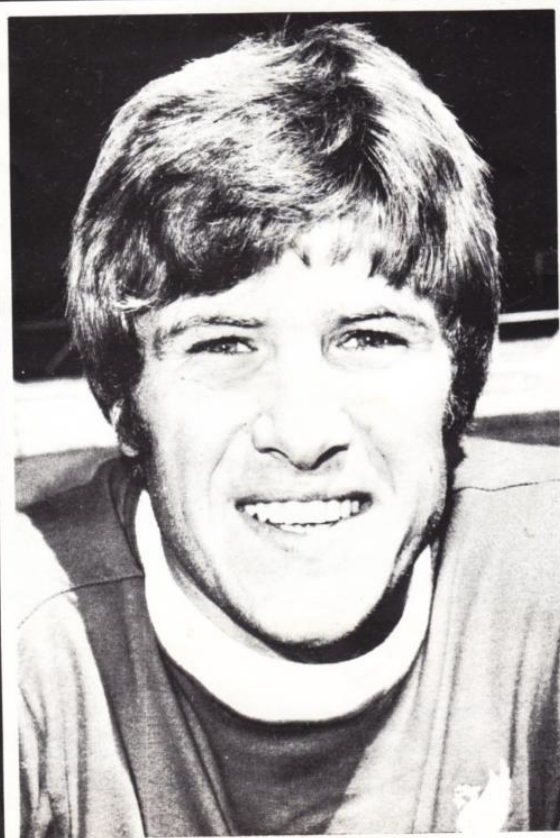
He's the man leading Liverpool towards an extraordinary and unprecedented treble in European club football . . . the man recalled to stiffen his country's defence in the quest for the World Cup Finals in Argentina next summer.

It's certainly been an incredible season for Emlyn Hughes, one of the most respected and admired players in football anywhere in the world. And now, to that already glittering list of credits, add the title 'Footballer of the Year.'

The Football Writers Association voted Emlyn their man of the season in the annual poll which has, traditionally, immediately preceded the Cup Final. The Football Writers Association was founded exactly 30 years ago and members elect their 'Player of the Year' at the end of every season.

First recipient of the award—a statuette of a footballer on a square plinth—was Stanley Matthews. The citation is the same now as it was back in 1947—“The Award is given to the player who by precept and example on and off the field shall have been considered to have done most for football during the season.”

Last year's winner was, of



course, Kevin Keegan—and Ian Callaghan took the award in 1974. Emlyn won this year's title from Johnny Giles who ends a memorable 21-year career in English football at the end of the season to return to Ireland.

Emlyn's reaction was, not unsurprisingly, one of delight. “It's just as much a tribute to the team as it is to me and I accept it on their behalf.”

He went on: “I'm absolutely delighted—but there are several Liverpool lads who could have won. Ray Clemence, Ray Kennedy and Steve Heighway have had terrific seasons and deserve awards on their own.

“The fact that I got back into the England team probably helped me, but overall this is as much an honour for the team as me.”

Emlyn now joins such distinguished company as Don Revie, Joe Mercer, Danny Blanchflower, Jimmy Adamson, the Charlton brothers, Dave Mackay, Billy Bremner and Bobby Moore.

He was set to receive the award at the special 'Footballer of the Year' Dinner in London just 48 hours before the Cup Final.

For hardened soccer superstars read dewy-eyed excited supporters at Cup Final time. So says Kevin Keegan for whom the occasion is as much a part of the F.A. Cup as the actual game. "I can't remember much about the '74 Final," he says "because though the build-up lasts for weeks and you go down a few days before to a secret hotel and are inundated with Press, TV and Radio interviews, the match flies past before you realise it"

England's superstar loves Cup Final day. From the moment you wake up and people start to wish you all the best you know it's going to be the most special day of your life. The strange impersonal hotel, the coach ride and the drive up Wembley Way looking at all the thousands of fans in outfits it's taken months to make.

"When you get there you look round the dressing room and go out to look at the pitch. There are more interviews then you greet those marvellous fans—it's their extra special day, too.

"It's the only time professional footballers get excited about a match because it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I never thought I'd play in a Final again, even with Liverpool, because the odds are against it. But now we're there, I intend to make the most of it. It could be the most memorable Final ever—but the main thing is that we win.

"I do hope, though, that's it's a good game for the fans. After the disappointment of the League Cup Final they deserve a classic. I hope there's no trouble on the terraces or before or after the game either. Nine out of ten Manchester United fans are among the best in the world; every one of ours is the best—so I hope they just enjoy what they see. They deserve their big day in London."

Though he doesn't remember much about the actual game, Kevin Keegan often looks back at the Newcastle Final—on his video recorder! "It must have been the most one-sided F.A. Cup Final of all time. Newcastle could and should have played better but what happened to them can happen to any team at Wembley. They froze. The occasion was too much for them.

"There's no way that's going to happen to us. Cup Finals are all about the best team on the day—as Manchester United found out last year. Now they're back and no doubt determined to make amends. Everything adds up to a classic. I don't think the occasion is going to be bigger this time.

"I remember my two goals against Newcastle but not much else about my first Cup Final. Perhaps it might be like that for some of our first-timers. But they won't freeze. I see Wembley as being another rung on the ladder to the treble—and I'm sure we can climb it."



KEVIN KEEGAN



JIMMY CASE

When Jimmy Case first broke into Liverpool's side, they started to wonder if he was a candidate for the hardest shot in football award. His dead ball kicks and volleys thundered into and past many a startled goalkeeper—but he's more than just a mule-shot now . . .

His captain Emlyn Hughes has watched him mature in the last 18 months and has been particularly appreciative of his contributions in recent weeks.

"Like Ray Kennedy, he's a player who just never stops running and he provides perfect midfield blend. Ray operates on the left—and scores goals; Jimmy on the right—and scores goals.

"Goals from midfield are vital to any team chasing the big trophies, because it relieves pressure from the recognised strikers. More than that, of course, it adds something extra to the team in its own right.

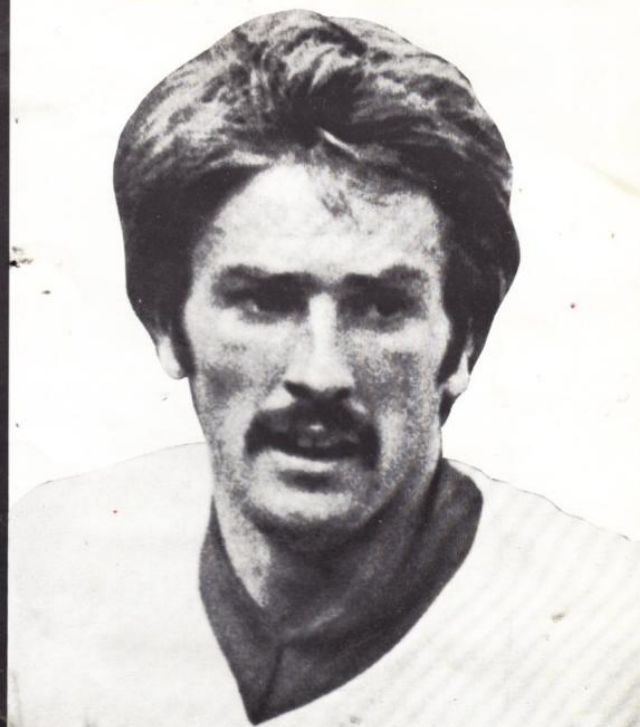
"This will be Jimmy's first time at Wembley, but he's not the sort to let it affect him. F.A. Cup Finals are all about conquering nerves and trying to play the way you do in every other game. Jimmy's just the sort to do that.

"In the last year or so, he's done exceptionally well to establish himself. This season, he's started to believe in himself which has made him an even better player.

"He's the sort of player who is still running and looking fresh when matches get into the last 15 minutes—a key time.

"We don't tie anyone down to rigid roles and that's another reason why Jimmy has become such an important player. He can be relied on to produce consistent, quality performances week in and week out. He's another 'typical' Liverpool player—and he's played a big part in getting us where we are."

STEVE HEIGHWAY



Steve Heighway, like every other Liverpool player, still feels a cold draught when you mention the words Crystal Palace. "We could, and should have been beaten in that match at Anfield—but we've not made the same mistakes since."

That, in a nutshell, sums up Liverpool's F.A. Cup year. "Cup ties are always extra difficult for us, because everyone wants to beat Liverpool," he says. "It was just the same against Carlisle and Oldham except we never gave anyone a chance after the Palace game."

Steve Heighway is one player who always seems to thrive in the heady, yet nerve-jangling Wembley atmosphere. "I love playing there. The size of the place, the fans, the occasion—it's something you never forget."

The Irish International will be making his sixth Wembley appearance—two F.A. Cup Finals, two Charity Shields and the Republic of Ireland's draw with England last autumn.

"The F.A. Cup Final is the showpiece of the soccer year. Instead of just highlights screened on television, it's seen kick by kick, by hundreds of millions of people all round the world. For them and for those fans who are lucky enough to get tickets, it's a day never to forget.

"I get butterflies in the long minutes just before the teams go out—and that's because of the sense of occasion that fires every player. It's football's annual Coronation day, and if you're lucky enough to be a part of it, you'll remember it for ever."

Liverpool have slipped through, almost unnoticed to this year's Final—but that doesn't mean the players are any less aware of an achievement any professional footballer would give his win bonus for.

"Our Cup run has been like match practice apart from that Palace game and we've never attempted to concentrate on it. Because we were doing so well in Europe and the First Division, the Cup seemed to be almost an afterthought," says Steve.

"The big thing about Wembley, is being able to cope with the nerves on the day. I think we're well equipped to do it and the blend of experience and youth is just right. This Final is capable of being a classic—but I don't think any Cup Final is a bad game.

"This is one match I'm particularly looking forward to, but there's more to it than that. The pulse starts to quicken the moment you realise you're in the semi-final. We are involved in so many activities off the field as well as on during the run-in, that it's a period you never forget. This year's been no different—more hectic really because there's been the little matter of the Championship and the European Cup too. The ways things have happened, everything could be settled in a week. And I, for one, don't want to miss a minute of it."



**NEXT TIME IT'S
FOR REAL!**

Kevin Keegan climbs
high to power home
the goal which gave
Liverpool a 1-0
victory in the recent
Cup Final rehearsal
against Manchester
United.



LIVERPOOL 1 MAN.UTD. 0

PHIL THOMPSON

Phil Thompson's season ended to all intents and purposes just a couple of minutes from the end of the First Division game at Anfield, against Newcastle United.

Attempting a volleyed clearance, there was an unavoidable and wholly accidental collision with Alan Gowling—and the result was the untimely disappearance of the young England star from the run-in to the big three trophies in England and Europe.

The man England boss Don Revie rates as England's top back four man—he has been a key man in the World Cup plans—has been a reluctant spectator ever since. He's back in training now and aiming for peak fitness very soon—even playing in practice matches against the first team. But that eight-weeks plus absence ruled him out of the big day at Wembley.

Though he'll have to sit out what is certain to be the most momentous seven days ever in the history of British football, Thompson can take some consolation in the fact that he helped lay the groundwork for the grand slam finale.



PHIL THOMPSON

"Phil is the best back four player in the country," says Emlyn Hughes. "He reads the game brilliantly and never panics no matter what. It would be true to say we've missed him—you'd always miss a player like that—but, conversely, how can we have when you look at the results?"

"As Phil, 'Cally' and 'Tosh' went out, Tommy Smith, David Johnson, David Fairclough and Terry McDermott came in—and they've been absolutely great."

Bob Paisley agrees: "With the greatest of respect, Phil couldn't possibly have played better than Tommy—that's how well he's done. But having said that, it was obviously a blow when Phil first dropped out, because he had been doing so well."

"I feel sorry for him, just as I do for 'Cally' and John Toshack. 'Cally' would probably have been voted 'Player of the Year' but for his injury. But everyone in this game accepts that part and parcel of it is getting injured from time to time."

"Even so, if someone had told me a few weeks ago that we would have been deprived of three such key players through injury, I would probably have packed the job in!"

"It goes to show the strength and ability of the first team squad that we have carried on almost regardless."

None of which will be any consolation to Phil Thompson of course, but the one-time Kop fan will be nonetheless a part of the celebrations. As Emlyn Hughes says: "Without Phil we possibly wouldn't have got where we are now. He helped lay the foundations and that's often the most difficult part."

A nice thought to consider . . .



IAN CALLAGHAN

IAN CALLAGHAN

Anyone who thinks Ian Callaghan lost touch with the incredible end-of-season triple challenge when his injury sidelined him, should have been in Bob Paisley's office a few hours before the semi-final replay.

'Cally', after just three days' training in six weeks, walked in after a stroll about in a Central League match the night before, expecting to go to Manchester strictly for the ride and the thrill of being there.

Instead, Bob Paisley told him he would either be playing or substitute in the game! "And that just about sums up the involvement you have at Liverpool," says 'Cally'.

"They simply don't let you feel out of things, even when you're not playing."

That injury could well mean that 'Cally' will not be appearing at Wembley, but he is philosophical about it. "I've been there three times in Cup Finals, so I've achieved every footballer's dream. Getting to the Cup Final is one of the great things that can happen to you."

"It's the build-up, the promotional activities, the realisation that you suddenly have 10,000 close friends who insist you've promised them a ticket! My greatest memory in the game is the 1965 Final—simply because it was my first."

"It's always nice to go back—I'd love to go every year. But it's a one-off job and that makes you determined to make the best of what is always a most incredible day."

'Cally' had dropped out by the sixth round and from then on became an interested spectator. "I was surprised Middlesbrough didn't put up a tougher fight, because on paper it was a tough game. As it happened the lads were easy winners."

"Only Crystal Palace gave us a scare until the first game against Everton. They were the better side and played better football—in fact, we were very happy with the draw."

"But it was just one-way traffic in the replay. And it showed again what tremendous character there is in the side. Liverpool have always been a team of character; of players who play for 90 minutes and give everything they've got."

"This year the strength of the squad has been invaluable. After myself, 'Tosh' and Phil Thompson went out, they just carried on without a falter. You'd have thought nothing had happened at all."

"I don't think you can compare the present team with the '60s side, because each had their merits. Both sides had great team players and great individualists who could play in a team. Instead of Ian St. John and Roger Hunt we've now got Steve Heighway and Kevin Keegan."

After a decade and a half of nothing but success, 'Cally' has a sneaking longing to play in the European Cup Final. "I've played in sides that have won the League three times and the F.A. Cup twice—now I want to be there in Rome. We came very close to it in 1965—this time there'll be no mistake . . ."

JOHN TOSHACK

John Toshack's injury—apart from throwing open the door to David Fairclough and David Johnson—meant quite a bit of re-organisation, both mental and physical, for his team mates.

Kevin Keegan explains: "We evolved a very successful partnership over five years, because we worked for each other. We both think about the game a lot and try to do the basic things well. We do keep our partnership simple, but not so simple that opponents can read it."

"Tosh' is a great player—the most under-rated striker in British football even now. Probably more than anyone I appreciate what he does. He's the perfect foil for me—tall and good in the air, he'll win nine out of ten balls."

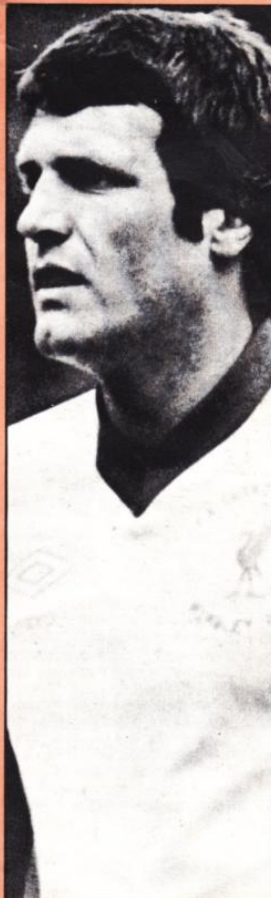
"I miss him—but then I would after all that time. We have not worked any harder than the other players at our partnership—it's simply that we've both got football brains and think about things. We're certainly not telepathic—just sensible. I wouldn't give 'Tosh' a ball to chase—he wouldn't give me stuff I had to win in the air."

Emlyn Hughes feels that Toshack's absence was, in a way, covered by Ian Callaghan's injury. "We obviously had to adjust when 'Tosh' dropped out, but then 'Cally' had played a certain way with 'Tosh'—but suddenly it was Terry McDermott and either David Fairclough or David Johnson teaming up. So 'Tosh' and 'Cally's' absences were covered up."

"Even so, we have missed him desperately, because he's the best forward player in the country. From the stands he can look to be having a quiet game—yet we know how much he really achieves every game. Everything revolves round him and we had to suddenly change it."

"In a way, it's given the others their big chance and the team hasn't suffered—another example of the top quality players in the squad."

John Toshack played in the third, fourth and fifth round ties before his injury and was doubtful for Wembley—one of the trio of disappointed men without whom the roots for success would not have been so firmly planted.



JOHN TOSHACK

HALL OF FAME



Ray Clemence. Goalkeeper who cost a fee of around £20,000 when signed by the club from Scunthorpe United in 1967. Eventually took over as senior choice from Tommy Lawrence. Has now made over 300 League appearances in his career. Played in losing F.A. Cup side in 1971 and winning one in 1974. Honours include England Under-23 and 26 full caps. Has two UEFA Cup medals as well.

Phil Neal. Full-back with the Anfield club, but had been something of a utility player at Northampton whom he left in October 1974 for £60,000. Has settled down well with Liverpool and established a regular place in the side. Won a UEFA Cup medal in 1976 and has been capped by England on two full occasions. More than 250 League appearances in his career so far. Penalty taker.

Joey Jones. Came from Wrexham in July, 1975 and cost a fee of £110,000. Has since taken over the left-back berth for himself. Given his League debut in 1972-73 and has since been capped by Wales at Youth, Under-23 and six times for the full side.

Tommy Smith. Seventeen years with the club having been signed at 15. Has made over 400 League appearances and received England Youth, Under-23 and one full cap during this time. Has played right-back and now in the side in place of the injured Phil Thompson. Began as a

midfield player, has completed 15 years as a professional and made his debut in 1962-63. Honours include two F.A. Cup winners medals, one runners-up, two UEFA Cup winners medals and a Cup Winners Cup runners-up medal.

Ray Kennedy. Was a close season signing by the Merseysiders in 1974 from Arsenal at the cost of £200,000. Had a spell as a youngster with Port Vale, but was allowed to leave. Rediscovered in the north-east. Was more of a striker at Highbury, but has been switched with good effect to a midfield role with Liverpool. Has received England Under-23 and five full caps. Two UEFA Cup medals with the two clubs and F.A. Cup winners and losers medals with Arsenal.

Emlyn Hughes. Captain of the club and former England skipper. Cost a fee of £60,000 when signed from Blackpool ten years ago. Has received Under-23 and 42 full caps. Two UEFA Cup winners medals and a winners and losers medal in the F.A. Cup. Completed his 400th League appearance with Liverpool during the 1976-77 season. Plays extra cover role in defence.

Kevin Keegan. Has been England's captain this season. Forward who was recruited from Scunthorpe United in Cup Final week, May 1971 and cost only £35,000. Had been discovered originally in Doncaster Sunday League football. Was 'Player of the Year' last season. Introduced

by his previous club as a teenager in 1968-69 season. Under-23 and 28 England full caps. Two UEFA Cup medals and one in the F.A. Cup.

Jimmy Case. Was given his initial League outing by the club on the last day of the 1974-75 season. Can play either midfield or act as a striker. Has been pressing for a regular place in the last couple of seasons. Has also won England Under-23 honours. A local born player, he has been a professional with the club since May, 1973. Won a UEFA Cup winners medal last season.

Steve Heighway. A graduate from Warwick University at one time. Began his career with Skelmersdale United and once on the books of Manchester City. Striker who operates on the left. Has been capped by the Republic of Ireland on 15 occasions. Signed by Liverpool seven years ago and has two UEFA Cup medals and both winners and losers for the club in the F.A. Cup as well.

David Fairclough. Made his name originally last season when he often came on as substitute to good effect. Has been capped this season by England at Under-21 level as well. Made his debut v Middlesbrough in November, 1975 and this season has often deputised for any of the injured strikers. Played in both semi-final matches against Everton. Won UEFA Cup medal in 1976.

Terry McDermott. Liverpool-born, but had a roundabout way back to

Merseyside via first Bury, and then Newcastle United. League debut for the 'Shakers' before going to Tyne-side. Midfield player signed by Liverpool in November, 1974 for £175,000.

David Johnson. Another Merseysider who had spells with Everton and Ipswich Town before returning to his native city and the 'other' side. Forward who cost £200,000 in the 1976 close season. Capped by England at Under-23 and three times fully, he has had a reputation of scoring on various debuts in his career.

Ian Callaghan. Long serving midfielder player at Anfield who made his 800th senior appearance earlier this season. League debut in April, 1960. Honours include F.A. Cup winners medals in 1965 and 1974, runners-up medal in 1971, Cup Winners Cup runners-up in 1966 and two UEFA Cup medals. England Under-23 honours and two full caps. Holds club record for League appearances as well.

John Toshack. Has been troubled by Achilles tendon injury of late. Former Cardiff City striker who was signed from there in November, 1970 for £110,000. Welsh International at Schools, Under-23 and has made 30 full appearances in his country's colours. Has scored nearly 150 League goals in his career. Two UEFA Cup medals and winners and losers medals in the F.A. Cup.

DAVID JOHNSON

John Toshack's protracted injury gave David Johnson, the big money buy from Ipswich Town, a lasting chance to settle into the Liverpool pattern—and his semi-final replay performance was ample proof of his arrival as a well-oiled cog in the Liverpool machine.

"Dave started off well but lost a bit of confidence and sharpness after coming here," says Emyln Hughes. "He realised he'd got to work hard and when he saw he wasn't an automatic choice he got to grips with things. He did particularly well in the second leg of the semi-final and looked as if he had blended in."

"It has happened to a lot of expensive signings—Ray Kennedy and Terry McDermott suffered the same problems."

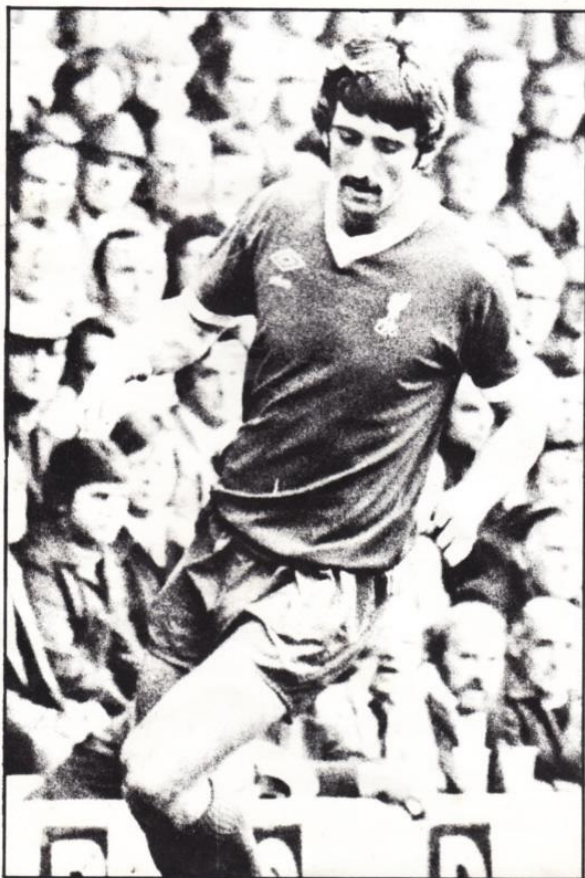
Kevin Keegan goes further. "Dave was simply dying for a chance and took it with both hands. It seems to take players a long time to settle in and really it all goes to show the exceptionally high standards here."

"Dave is different from 'Tosh'—but the same. They contrast each other—but achieve the same. I really don't know why it took Dave time to settle but I think he's really blended in now. After two or three games we started to develop an understanding because we played to each other's strengths."

"Dave is quicker than 'Tosh' but can't do some of the things 'Tosh' can. Yet when you think there's competition of this standard for places it can only be for the good of the club. The strength of our squad has been the key to the success this season—and the fact that people like Dave came in and immediately played well speaks volumes for their abilities."

David Johnson, once of Everton, but who made a big name at Ipswich, is now poised for the sort of honours that eluded the East Anglian club. His personal honours include England caps—in last year's Home internationals—and could now be swelled by three other honours.

All in all and even taking into account the inevitable period of re-adjustment, it's still been quite a year for David Johnson.



DAVID FAIRCLOUGH

How do you define the undefinable? Like catching stardust or searching for the end of the rainbow, trying to explain the rare talent that is David Fairclough is, to put it mildly, difficult. Even his own team mates never know what he will do next!

In a very short time the 'super sub' has become a national name—his extra-special goals have been flashed across the nation's television screens time and time again. He has won Under-23 recognition and adulation from the Kop. Yet he is first to admit that he has it all to learn; that talent alone is not enough—particularly at Liverpool.

"Dave's difficult to play with," says Kevin Keegan, "because you just can't read him—that's what makes him such a dangerous opponent. You simply never know what he'll do next. The best is yet to come from him and in a couple of years time he should be a force to be reckoned with."

"His best asset is his pace—coupled with his control. And he's got an eye for goal of course. You must remember that he's not a regular yet and, like a lot of youngsters, might have difficulty in adapting when opponents do get the measure of him. That's when the real test will come—but I'm sure he'll do well. He's dedicated, got a good outlook on the game and has already picked up a lot of experience. Dave can only get better—when opponents read him he'll develop another trick. He's got ability you just can't coach into a player."

Emyln Hughes agrees. "Dave is an enigma in modern football. One minute he'll do things you wouldn't think possible the next he's just the opposite. He reminds me of Steve Heighway when he first came to the side. Now Steve thinks about the game which Dave will when he gets the same experience."

"Steve used to go past people at will—but he's three times as good a player now. Dave is a bit of a secret weapon. Often he'll start a match and play for 90 minutes without doing a thing. Yet he'll come on as substitute and within seconds score the most amazing goal ever."

"But he'll settle down into a great player—of that I'm sure!"

FA CUP '74

LIVERPOOL 3, UNITED 0

No, we're not predicting the score... that's how it finished in 1974, only the United in question were Newcastle, not Manchester. But obviously the 'Reds' would settle for a similar scoreline this year...

Remember the Cup year of '74? Liverpool had a big, big shock in round three, when two Kevin Keegan goals against his old club Doncaster were equalised at Anfield—but Steve Heighway and Peter Cormack came up with the goods in the replay.

On to the fourth round—and this time Carlisle blunted the 'Reds' attack at Anfield (0-0). Phil Boersma and John Toshack hit the two replay goals at Brunton Park.

No mistake in the fifth round—Bristol City and Keegan scored the goals to beat Ipswich at Anfield.

End of the trail... the camera captures a moment of jubilation.

And in the sixth round, a Toshack goal finally ended the Cup hopes of Bristol City down in the West Country (Bristol had inflicted Leeds' first defeat of the season in the previous round).

The semi-final took Liverpool to Old Trafford and a meeting with Leicester. It ended 0-0—Brian Hall, Keegan and Toshack scored the three replay goals at Villa Park and the 'Reds' were at Wembley for the second time in three years.

And what of the Final itself? 'It was a Wembley occasion worthy of the tournament, for in the finalists Liverpool and Newcastle United, it brought together two of the most vociferously-supported clubs in the



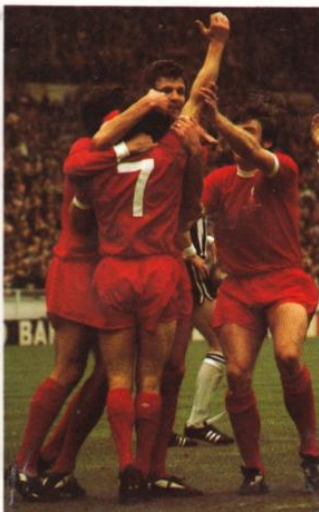
A Royal introduction... H.R.H. Princess Ann is introduced to the team by captain, Emlyn Hughes.

land,' recorded *Rothmans Football Yearbook*. 'Neither club earned their Wembley place without tasting the essence of the F.A. Cup—both could have gone out sensationally in the third round.

'Liverpool, hosts at Anfield to Doncaster, then 92nd in the Football League, trailed 1-2, fashioned an equaliser, then suffered endless dramas before a replay.



Goalbound... the ball leaves Kevin Keegan's foot for goal number one.



'Any pre-match doubts about Liverpool's lack of scoring power in the Final were dispelled when Alec Lindsay beat McFaul with a stunning shot early in the second half, but Keegan was offside.

'In the 57th minute, Smith crossed into the Newcastle area, Hall drew Moncur out and before the gap could be sealed, Keegan controlled and volleyed high to McFaul's left. Toshack and Keegan sent Heighway clear for the second, then an eleven-pass move ended with Keegan turning the ball in for the third.'

As our flashback pictures show, it was elation all the way—and notice the similarities... Carlisle in the fourth round after a third round replay; a drawn semi-final.

So, as we said at the start, Liverpool 3, United 0 isn't a prediction—or is it...

Congratulations and salutations... elation amongst the Reds!



Liverpool have reached the F.A. Cup Final on five previous occasions. In 1914 they were on the losing side, similarly in 1950 but in 1965 they had their first win and after losing again in 1971, they celebrated their third success in 1974.

In 1914 defeat at Crystal Palace against Burnley by the only goal of the game was a 'Royal' occasion at least. It was the first time a reigning monarch had attended the Final when King George V took his place in the stand.

Oddly enough Liverpool defeated Everton 2-0 in the 1950 Semi-Final at Maine Road to win the right to meet Arsenal in the Final at Wembley. But the 'Gunners' won on that occasion also by two clear goals. Twelfth man for Liverpool that day was present manager Bob Paisley.

But it was a happier Wembley for the Anfield side in 1965 when after extra-time in a dour battle with Leeds United they triumphed by the odd goal in three. One of the 'Reds' heroes that day was Gerry Byrne the left-back who played for 117 minutes of the match with a broken collar bone! Present survivors from that occasion are, of course, Ian Callaghan and Tommy Smith.

Arsenal again proved the undoing of Liverpool in 1971 as the Londoners achieved the League and Cup Double that year. Once more the match went to extra-time and when Steve Heighway put Liverpool ahead it seemed they would win but it was not to be.

However, Liverpool's most emphatic success in the competition came in 1974 when they beat Newcastle United 3-0. It was the biggest margin of victory in the competition since 1946. Liverpool still have on their books Clemence, Smith, Lindsay,

Thompson, Hughes, Keegan, Heighway, Toshack and Callaghan from that 1974 side. And Clemence, Lindsay, Smith, Hughes, Callaghan, Heighway and Toshack are survivors from 1971.

Liverpool have met Manchester United on previous occasions in the F.A. Cup. The earliest encounter was in 1897-98 when United were known as Newton Heath. It was a second round tie and after a goalless draw away, Liverpool won the replay on their own ground 2-1.

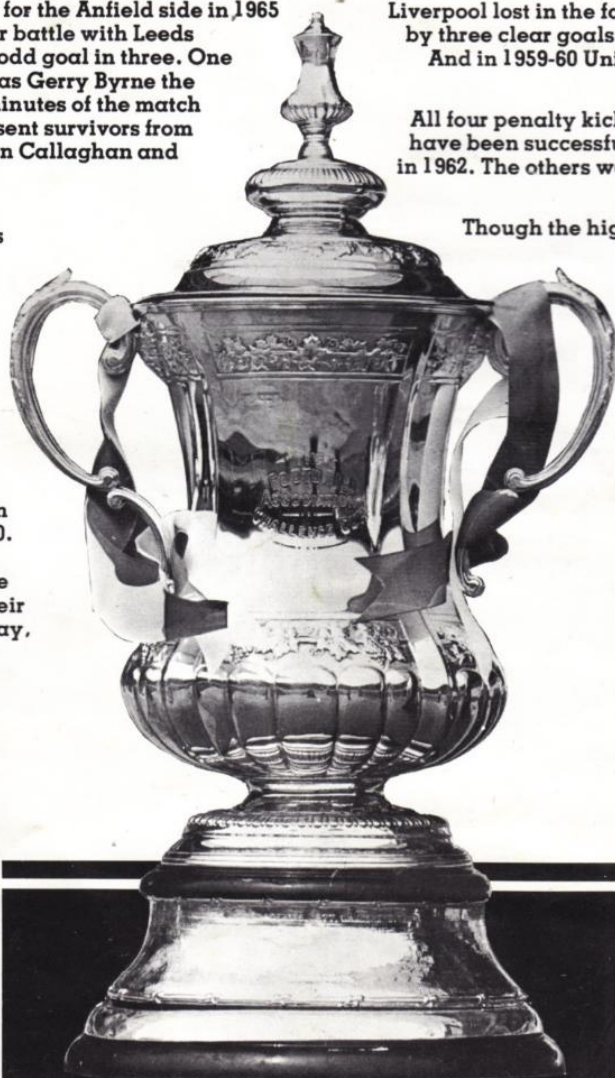
Again they met in 1902-03 this time in a first round match with Liverpool losing 2-1. But in 1920-21 at the same stage after a 1-1 draw at Liverpool, the Anfield side won the replay again by the odd goal in three.

Liverpool lost in the fourth round to United in 1947-48 by three clear goals at Goodison Park of all places! And in 1959-60 United had the better of the fourth round tie 3-1 at Liverpool.

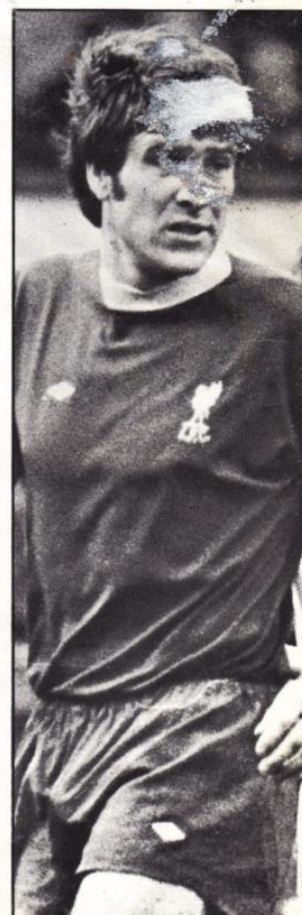
All four penalty kicks in Wembley F.A. Cup Finals have been successful. But the last award was back in 1962. The others were in 1954, 1948 and the first in 1938.

Though the highest score by the winning side in an F.A. Cup Final is six goals, nobody has managed more than four since the competition first found its home at Wembley in 1923. And it's 24 years since four goals were scored?

JACK ROLLIN



FOR THE RECORD





terminal