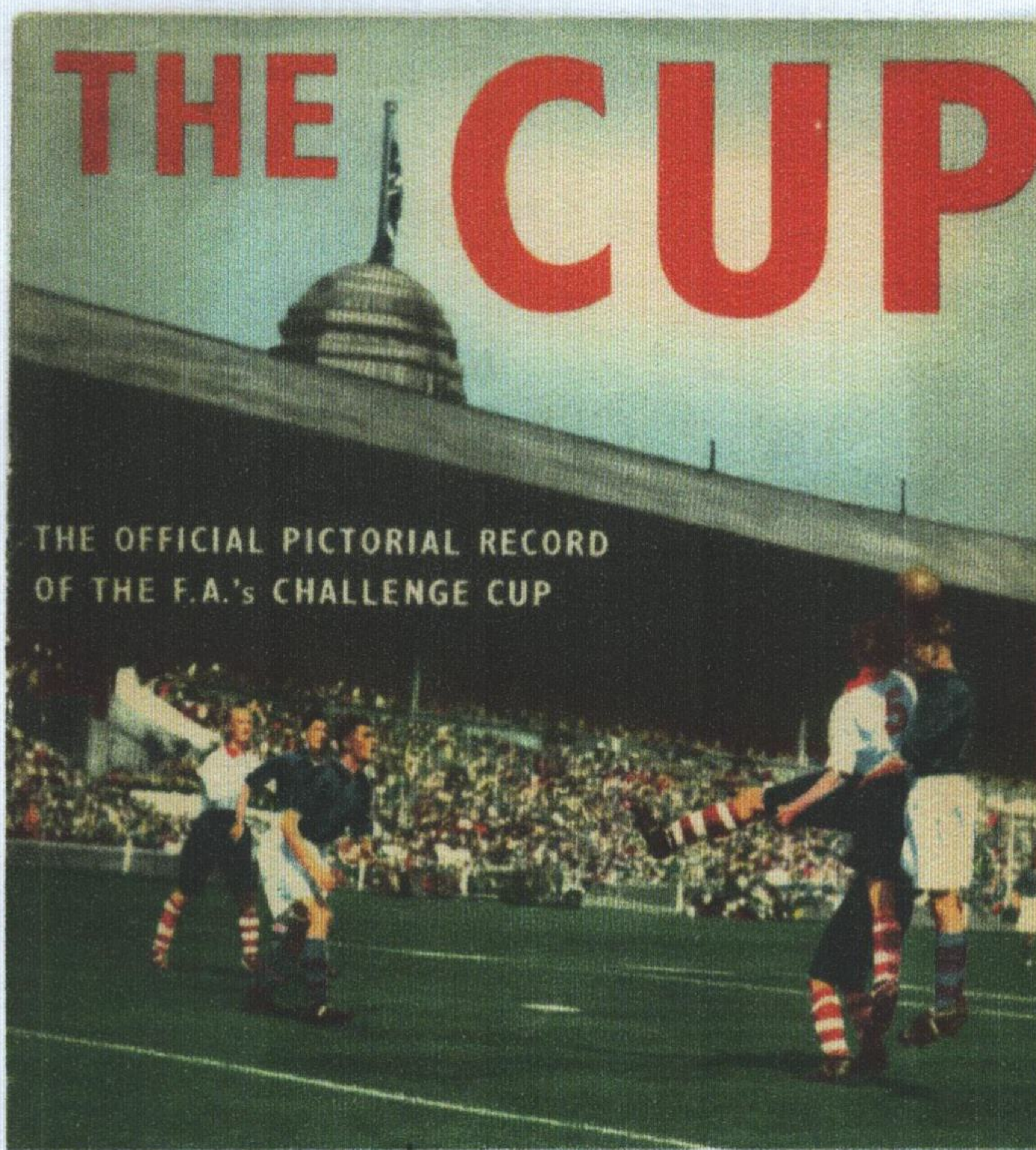


Blue Blood

A Historical Everton Fanzine

Volume 9 issue 73



**The History Of The F. A. Cup
Starts Page 4**

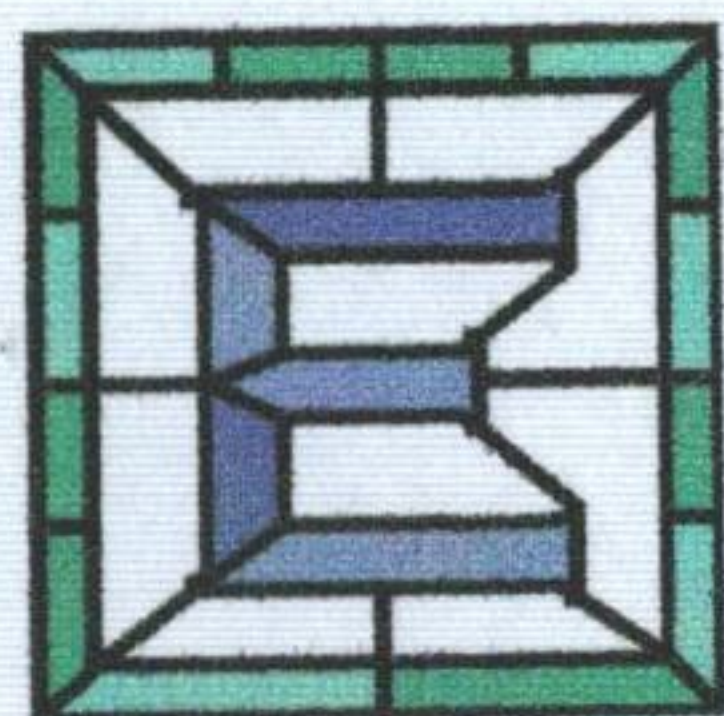
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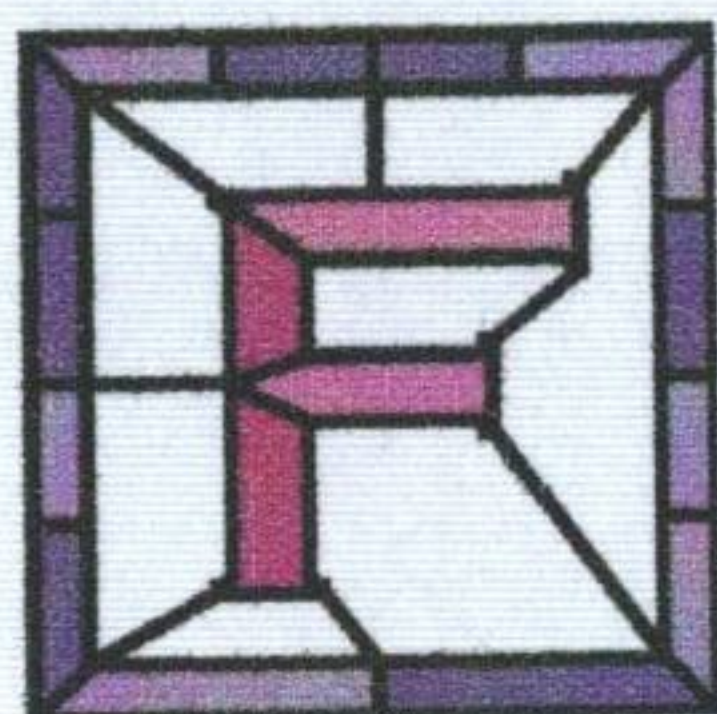
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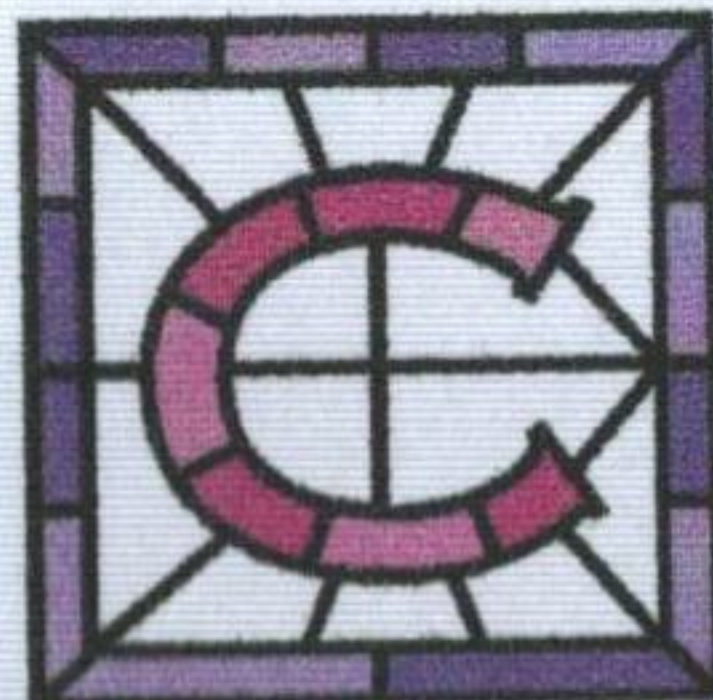


Thank you for all the articles and emails, keep up the good work. For those of you who are interested, on Friday nights between 8 & 8.30pm I do a small spot on Radio Merseyside 95.8fm, it's called Blue Watch and is all about E.F.C.



No Obstructed Views

As long as your item is not racist, violent or offensive it will be considered for publication. All the views expressed in this fanzine are those of the contributor and not the editor so please don't sue me.



Billy Wright

A local lad who made his debut in Feb 1978. Struggled with his weight but played well for Everton in 196 games + 2 sub scoring 10 goals went to Birmingham and did well there becoming Captain and penalty taker.

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Please make all cheques payable to George Orr
Back Issues available from me outside the Winslow (not many left)

Birmingham at home in the Cup and we all thought who do we get in the next round, we had just played Man City off the Park we had been to Arsenal and should have won, so we were right to be confident.

Pity the players didn't feel the same way, apart from Fellaini they never gave a toss nor did they break sweat. We were 2-1 down and needed someone with a bit of pace and bite, someone who could get down the wing and centre the ball, Coleman was the ideal man, this lad got us into the Cup against Birmingham because against Carlisle we were struggling until he came on and centred the ball and we put them out. So I, like most Blues wanted him on, but Moyes in his wisdom brings on Arteta who had not played for eleven months and to be honest even when fully fit is not the kind of player who steps up the pace and gets down the wing.

So for the first time in 53 years Birmingham left Goodison Park with a win under their belt and we went out of the Cup. Guttled yes I was gutted because they were not a great team it was Everton who were poor not Birmingham who were good.

Sunderland at home and we get the win that was expected but it wasn't a great game but that doesn't matter to most Evertonians as long as we get the three points they are happy. As you know I am not one of them, I am not that easily pleased, I don't go along with, 'as long as we get enough points and we don't get relegated then I am happy' point of view. What do the people who think like that do when we get enough points to make sure we are not relegated and there are still four home games left? Do they say well that's it now until next season and not go to those games?

I get fed up being told by Evertonians how Moyes has kept us from relegation battles, I have watched Everton for 52 years and only on two occasions have I gone into the last game of the season fearing relegation and in the hundred and thirty five years of our existence we have only been relegated twice, so don't give me the 'We were always in relegation battles' we were not we are Everton F.C not Bolton or Blackburn if you are only concerned with Premiership survival you should watch Wigan, Stoke, or the others whose only aim is that. I do not want to be dragged down that road by a depressive manager who only praises the opposition, who doesn't, regardless of what you think bring young players through, Moyes has been here eight years name the young players who are regulars in our team that he has brought through? Only Rodwell and he only got in because Jags was injured. No there are no young players who have made it. Vaughan, Anichebe, Coleman, Duffy are reserves only used for injuries. If like Coleman or Vaughan you played well, Coleman Man Of The Match v Spurs, dropped ever since apart from one sub appearance where he won us the game for which he was dropped again, Vaughan got two goals in two sub games with less than 13 minutes between those two games, does not get a start at Arsenal, an American who has not played for three months and never played in the Premiership gets his debut, Vaughan is on the bench, Vaughan doesn't get a sniff in the Derby game. I know I am moaning about Moyes again but its eight years now and we look like once again ending the season not winning anything, for me that is long enough. I watched the Villa v Blackburn semi final it was Blackburn's sixth semi final in seven years!!!!!!!!!!!!!! The Derby and again my mate Moyes bottles it, we are playing against ten men, does he step up the pace? Does he bring on fresh legs? No he brings on Vic (out for months injured) and the Yak (just back from Africa injured) Coleman and Vaughan two fit young players? No chance negative Dave just wants to keep the score down, they come at us as if we are the ones down to ten men. No tactics, no idea no chance, he has once again, against a so called top four club been happy to take a 1-0 defeat. Pienaar was too weak, his passing isn't good enough, Neville is not as good as Coleman but he will never be dropped, Moyes said in the Echo that Neville was his Cantona if that doesn't tell you he has lost the plot then nothing will. Cantona commanded games, he scored, he tackled, he led and shouted, look at Neville and tell me he is the same!!!!!!!!!! 'Frankie Howard' gets scared because someone is standing in front of him, give me strength West or Southall would have knocked the Dutch sod out but not our Howard he lets Kuyt get in front of him on the GOALINE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Major Sir Francis Marindin, RE, KCMG
President of the F.A. 1874-90



C. W. Alcock
Secretary of the F.A. 1871-95

in long trousers and caps. They changed ends every time a goal was scored. The cross-bar of 1872 was a tape. The throw-in was gained by a touch-down when the ball went out of play and the throw itself was one-handed. There were no centre-circles, halfway-lines, goal or penalty-areas.

This was the age of the dribbler pure and simple, allied with a system of 'backing-up', as it was called, whereby a player followed up the man who had the ball, and stayed ready to receive it or to hustle and ward off any interference by opposing forwards or backs. Dribbling was the vogue and to quote an expert of the late 1870s: 'To see some players guide and steer a ball through a circle of opposing legs, turning and twisting as occasion requires, is a sight not to be forgotten'.

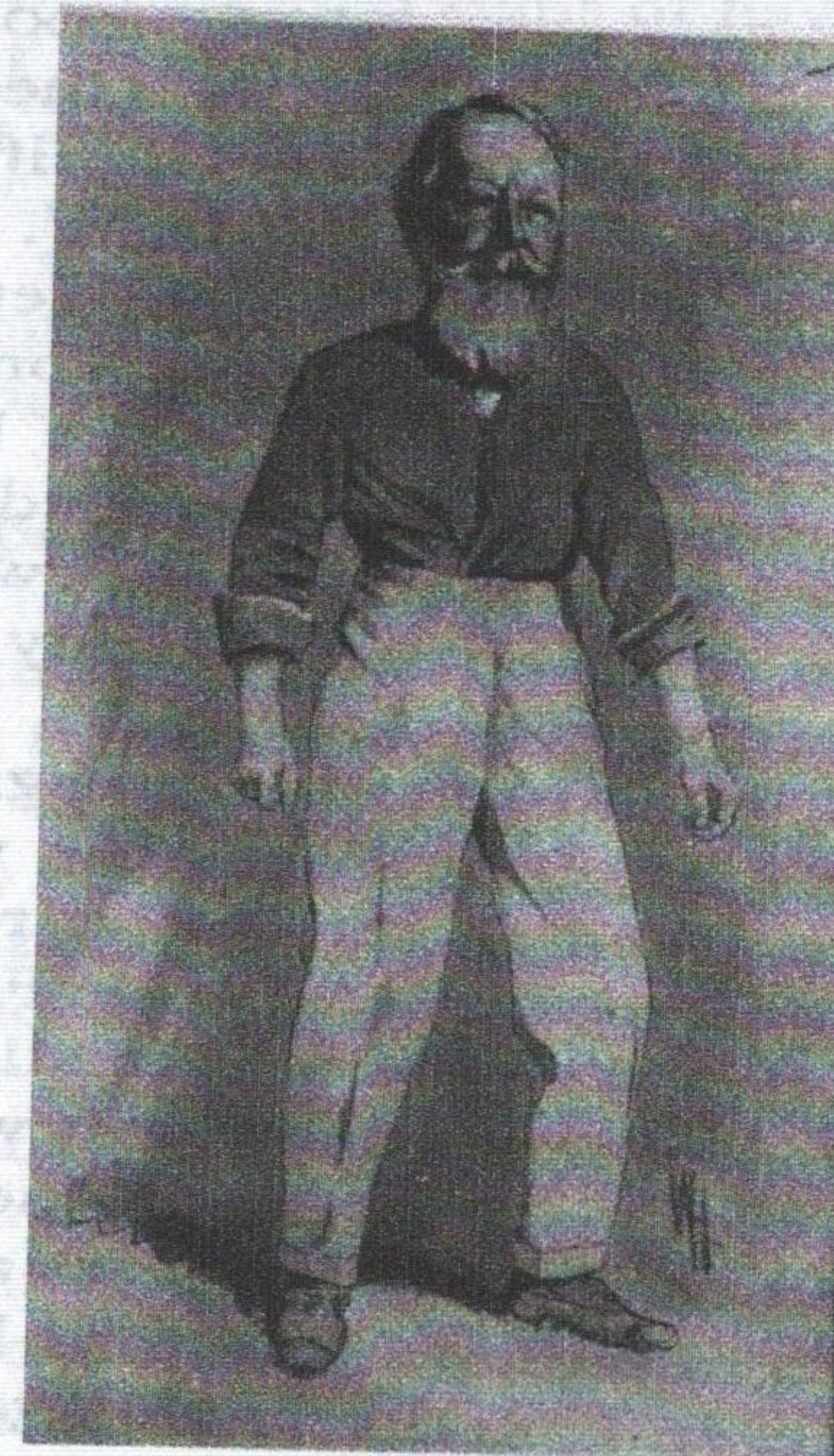
The formation of teams, too, was different. In the 1860s the arrangement allowed for eight forwards and three defenders. By 1874 this was changed to seven forwards (three centre-forwards), and by the

end of the 70s they had been reduced to six, with one of the centre-forwards withdrawn to half-back. But it was not until 1883 that the Cambridge University team experimented with five forwards, converting the second centre-forward to a new position of centre-half. It proved so successful that the new formation was very soon adopted generally.

In earlier times any differences of opinion over the Laws were settled mutually by the captains of sides during the course of play. In a certain match between The Wanderers and the Old Etonians at the Oval, Alcock, The Wanderers' captain, tried out a peculiar charge of his own on 'Quintus' Lubbock, a prince among half-backs. 'By Heaven! Alcock', roared the cheerful giant, 'if you do that again I'll hack you off your legs'. Yet the matter was settled without a referee with the tacit acquiescence of all the other players. When the F.A. Cup was begun, however, two umpires and a referee were appointed to each tie, the referee requiring the wisdom of a



The original F.A. Cup



Lord Kinnaird
President of the F.A.
Played in nine finals
And won five Winners Medals

1957-58, he didn't miss a match, but you won't find him on the team photo. He was down the pit. The son of a Loanhead miner, he worked at the Burghlee colliery, a "hopeless engineer" who could train at Tynecastle only twice a week. In the early days, he would finish at 4.30pm, take a bus into Edinburgh, and catch another at the Tron Kirk. "There were always one or two on the Gorgie bus who recognised me. They'd shout, 'you're effing useless Young'. Stuff like that. That persuaded me to go and buy a car."

His first was an MG, but he wrote that off. "Not that I was driving fast. I was going to Tynecastle for training, and I saw my uncle at a bus stop. I stopped the car, or at least thought I did, but there was oil on the road and I went straight into a lamppost. I got an account from Edinburgh Council for breaking their lamp. Cost me about 20 quid."

His second was a black Volkswagen,

'They said I scored three, but it was four. The Hibs guys were falling down a lot and I was sort of... floating'

registration SS9990. On matchdays, he would park it in the old brickyard near Tynecastle, and walk to the ground. "You would get there by two o'clock, and they would be flooding in already. There used to be about 40,000, 49,000 when it was Hibs. You were more or less in amongst the crowd, but nobody was going gaga or anything. You were just one of them. Nowadays, the players are aloof. They've got money, everything. For the first few games I played, I was getting £12 a week. We weren't going to move to the posh houses on wages like that."

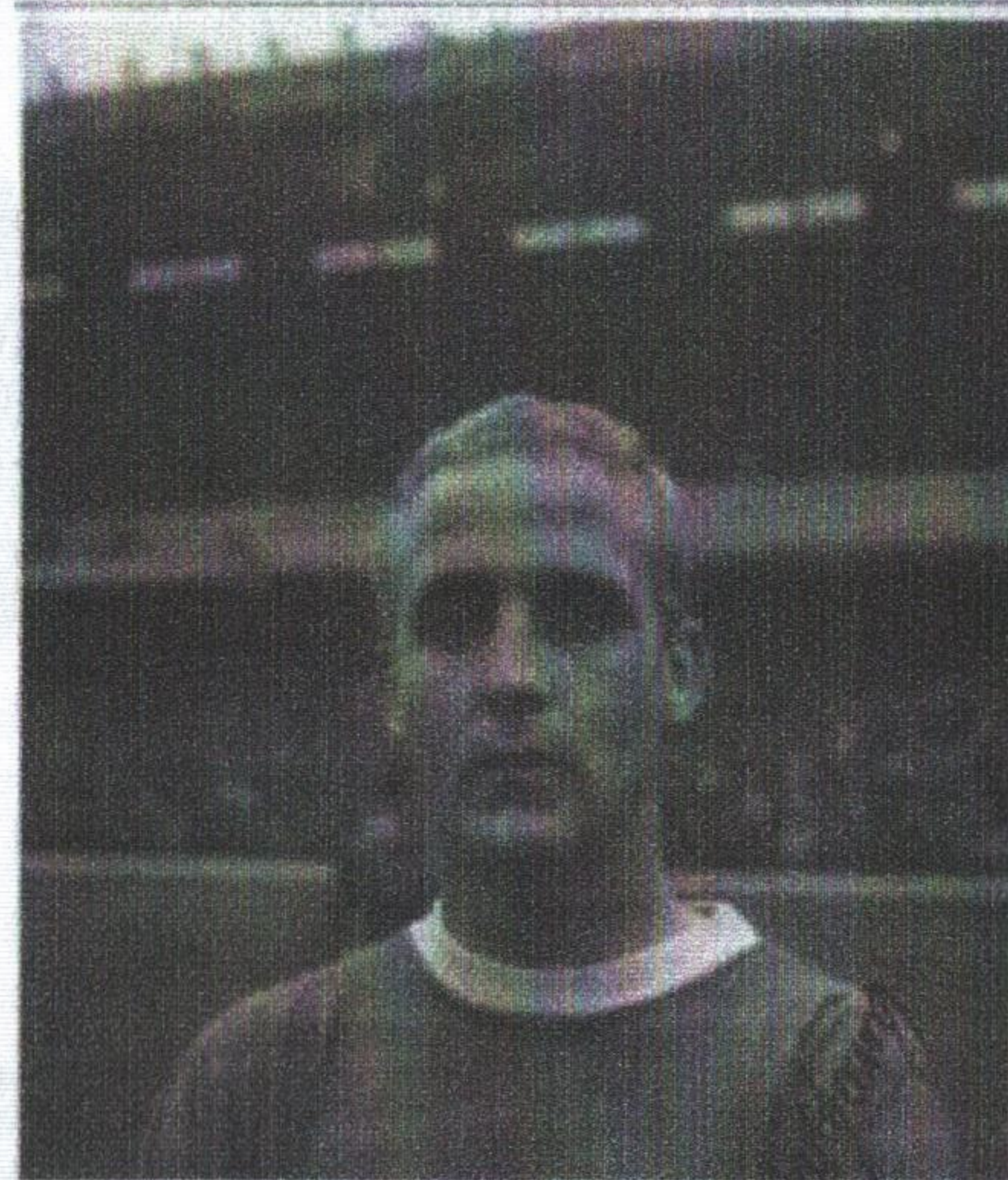
Young didn't care much for the high life. His older team-mates went dancing at the Palais on a Saturday night, but he and Nancy, now his wife, settled for the Regal Ballroom in Bonnyrigg. Unless you fancied high tea in one of the big hotels, there was nowhere to eat late in Edinburgh save for one

restaurant near the King's Theatre, the name of which escapes him. "If you met a girl, and you wanted to take her for something to eat, that's where you would go."

Here's hoping it was better than his pre-match meals. Every Saturday, Young's mother would make the same concoction. "She would give me the white of an egg whisked up with a drop of sherry. That was before every home game. They thought it was good for you, and it certainly worked. It made you feel sort of boosted up."

Young signed for Hearts at 15, but was farmed out to Newtongrange Star, the Midlothian junior club that Dave Mackay had left only the year before. Mackay once described it as the first environment in which he had heard women swear. Young was called into the Hearts squad at 18, and within three years had helped them to the league title. Add another championship crown to that, as well as a couple of League Cups, and it seems remarkable that he was invited to leave at the age of 23.

Inexplicably, his languid style wasn't to everyone's taste north of the



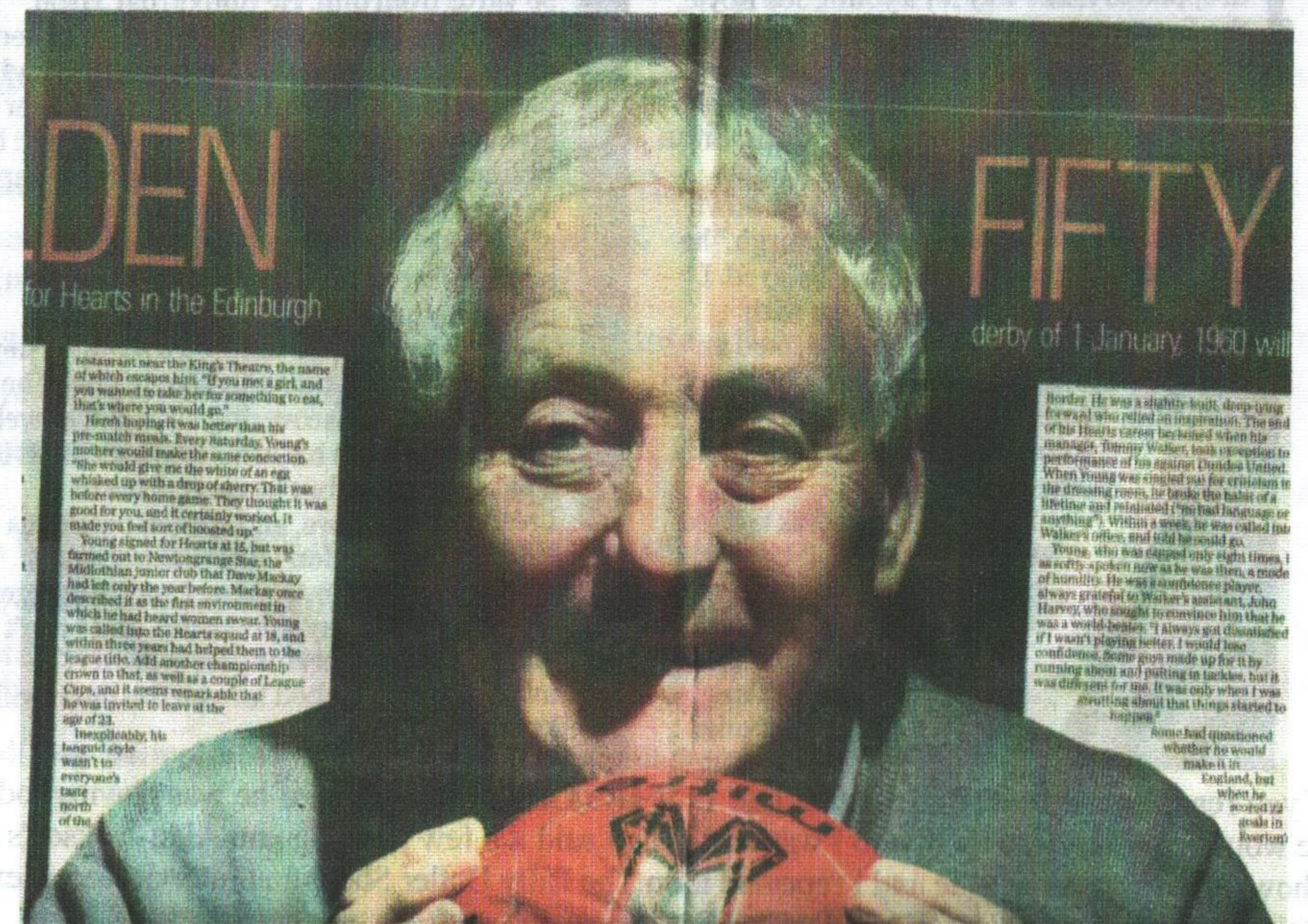
Alex Young
"The Golden Vision"

Border. He was a slightly-built, deep-lying forward who relied on inspiration. The end of his Hearts career beckoned when his manager, Tommy Walker, took exception to a performance of his against Dundee United. When Young was singled out for criticism in the dressing room, he broke the habit of a lifetime and retaliated ("no bad language or anything"). Within a week, he was called into Walker's office, and told he could go.

Young, who was capped only eight times, is as softly-spoken now as he was then, a model of humility. He was a confidence player, always grateful to Walker's assistant, John Harvey, who sought to convince him that he was a world-beater. "I always got dissatisfied if I wasn't playing better. I would lose confidence. Some guys made up for it by running about and putting in tackles, but it was different for me. It was only when I was strutting about that things started to happen."

Some had questioned whether he would make it in England, but when he scored 22 goals in Everton's

Continued on page 14



DEN
for Hearts in the Edinburgh

FIFTY
derby of 1 January 1960 will

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1963 title-winning season, another in which he was ever-present, the truth was out. Young was at Everton for eight years, but it's not the title, the 87 goals he scored in that period, or even the epic FA Cup triumph of 1966 that fans admired so much as the way in which he carried himself.

Listen to Evertonians talk about Alex Young, and it is as though he had supernatural qualities. He didn't kick the ball, he stroked it. He didn't run across heavy pitches, he glided. One wag said that, if he was playing today, he would be sponsored by Flymo. Jimmy Greaves described him as "Nureyev on grass". And to think that he was troubled all his career by blistered feet that had to be lanced at half-time on the treatment table.

He was, and is, nothing short of a Sixties icon at Goodison. Once, when he was



dropped to make way for a young Joe Royle, the Everton manager, Harry Catterick, was jostled by angry fans in the Blackpool car park. When a team-mate accidentally injured Young in training, the culprit, Brian Labone, was booed in their next home game. "You were more like a star down there than you were in Edinburgh," he says. "They liked the way I played. I could play the same game with Hearts, but I wouldn't be liked in the same way. In Liverpool, they idolise their players. In Edinburgh, they criticise. That's the difference."

In May 1999, he was named among the Football League's 100 Legends of the 20th Century, together with Tom Finney, Stanley Matthews and John Charles. The medal for that is among

many he keeps in an old holdall. "I'm better known in England than I am in Scotland. I still get lots of mail from down south, but not from here. I was down at a game about two months ago, and it was great. They even have an Alex Young lounge. It's like a nightclub with all the lights flashing, and guys on the door. Whereas when I go to Tynecastle..."

There isn't much video evidence of Young in his Everton heyday, which makes Loach's film all the more important. Its name, said Danny Blanchflower, conveyed "the view every Saturday that we have of a perfect world, a world that has got a pattern and is finite. And that's Alex - The Golden Vision". The drama-documentary, which was shown as part of the BBC's celebrated Play for Today series, tells the story of an Everton-supporting family, interspersed with archive footage, and an interview with Young. He had a 25-strong film crew round at his house, with Nancy making cakes and coffee. An interview with his five-year-old daughter, Jane, provided the film's opening sequence.

"What does your daddy do?" she is asked.

"Plays football," she whispers in reply.

"Who for?"

"Everton."

"Is he good?"

"Yes."

"What's his name?"

"Alex Young."

Four decades on, Jane Young lives in Rosewell, with three daughters of her own. Alex also has two sons, one of whom lives just 50 yards from him. He thinks that Jason might have been a top player had it not been for the broken leg he suffered at 15. He had to content himself with a journeyman career at Meadowbank and Stranraer. Now, he and his siblings run the upholstery business set up by their father when he retired. Alex had planned a career in coaching, but poor hearing forced him to give up his first post, as player-manager of Glentoran.

Four years ago, he suffered a stroke. They feared the worst, but with Nancy's help, he fought back, rediscovering his sight, as well as the strength in his arms and legs. He is in good shape now, but he can't drive to Liverpool any more, and speech problems frustrate him. "I don't like that because I used to speak fluently. Now I sort of stagger along. I want to say something, and I can't get it out. I am searching for words." The mortals who watched him on the pitch will know how he feels.

If you read the article on this page on line 14 it says One Wag said that if he was playing today he would be sponsored by Flymo I was that Wag I said it a few years ago on Alan Jackson's Show on Radio Merseyside and I repeated it on The Billy Butler Show that interviewed Alex the other year. Yours 'The WAG' George Orr.

**This article appeared in the Liverpool Echo in a series about Everton
Hard Men Johnny Morrissey is the first in a series of five**

JOHNNY MORRISSEY might not have been the first name on manager Harry Catterick's teamsheet . . . although despite international class competition like Alan Ball, Colin Harvey, Howard Kendall, Tommy Wright, Gordon West and Brian Labone, he certainly wasn't far behind.

But the Everton winger was ALWAYS first pick in five-a-side.

Team-mate Colin Harvey revealed that such was Morrissey's formidable reputation as a Mersey hard-man, even in training ground kick-about, that people always wanted him on their side.

"He was a winger who famously used to terrify the full-back who marked him," smiled his former team-mate.

"He definitely belongs in any list of Mersey hard -men, but because of that reputation people don't give him enough credit for the skill he had – and he was very skilful.

"He was an excellent crosser, with both feet. He would get up and down and put a good shift in every game. He was a real team player and when you put those qualities together you had a very good footballer.

"But he knew how to tackle, too!"

Leeds United were considered the most ruthless team of that era, with teak tough players who verged on the cynical.

Names like Norman 'Bites Yer Legs' Hunter, Billy Bremner, Johnny Giles and the formidable central defender Jackie Charlton were renowned for their ruthlessness.

In October 1970 Charlton famously appeared on a TV programme where he said he'd once kept a "little black book" of names of players whom he intended to hurt or exact some form of revenge upon.

Johnny Morrissey presumably figured on page one.

Continued on page 16

We knew all about the so-called black book,” laughed Colin. “Johnny absolutely clattered Jackie one afternoon then went over to pick him up. As he bent over he muttered into his ear ‘you can put that in your **ing book now!’**

“It’s fair to say he wasn’t easily intimidated.”

That school of hard knocks attitude was imbued during Morrissey’s upbringing in the tough Scotland Road area of Liverpool in the 1940s and ‘50s.

His first club was Liverpool, but Morrissey’s value as a footballer was clear to all but the short-sighted members of the Liverpool FC board.

A £10,000 move from Liverpool to Everton for the diminutive dreadnought was sanctioned in September 1962 – without manager Bill Shankly’s knowledge.

When the incensed Reds boss belatedly discovered the deal had been done he penned a resignation letter and made it clear that any further transfers without his seal of approval would result in his exit.

Liverpool’s loss was undoubtedly Everton’s gain.

Morrissey made 33 appearances and scored eight goals in his debut season at Goodison, which culminated in the 1962/63 League Championship.

He missed only one league match in 1969/70 – claiming nine goals as Everton were crowned champions again – but it was the silverware Morrissey missed out in-between times, the 1966 FA Cup, which played most on his mind.

The disappointment at missing out on that success perhaps explains his enthusiasm for accepting a nerve shredding role two years later – and underlined that Morrissey possessed mental strength as well as physical prowess.

The first penalty kick he ever took was in an FA Cup semi-final against Leeds United – and it took Everton to the 1968 FA Cup final.

“I’d not been in the 1966 Cup winning side and was desperate to play at Wembley,” he later recalled. “It’s the one big occasion in a footballer’s life that he dreams about.

Everton A Thesis By David Kennedy

David Kennedy has updated his Thesis on the 1892 Everton Split it can be found and downloaded from the www.evertoncollection.org.uk/article?id=ART74553 website
This Article is Taken from a Thesis by David Kennedy Originally done in 2003 at Leeds University more in forthcoming issues .

The split in Everton Football Club in 1892 was a defining moment in the history of Merseyside football. Our knowledge of this event has been advanced by a handful of studies, which, though not concentrating specifically on the split, have helped to establish an orthodox view of the dynamics that lay behind it.¹ Essentially, the split is portrayed in those accounts as a critical point reached in the financial relationship between the Everton membership and their president and landlord, John Houlding, over the issue of the club's financial obligations to Houlding.

The president stands accused in historical accounts of abusing his position within the club in order to impose a series of arbitrary rental increases on the Everton membership from the late 1880s, and to extract high interest rates for loans made to the club for ground improvements. The split of the club in March 1892 is understood as the outcome of Houlding's financial exploitation of it. In this and the following chapter the complexity of the 1892 split will be more fully explained, and the received view that the club split was the outcome of the club president's financial exploitation is rejected. Rather, the split is explained as the final act of a drawn out power struggle between competing factions amongst the Everton membership attempting to impose conflicting governance strategies for the development of the club. Further, it is argued that social and political influences on the split of Everton played a crucial role in determining the course of events. This latter viewpoint will be taken up in Chapter Five.

I. The Established View of the 1892 Split

The established explanation of the split of Everton FC in 1892 is well known to those familiar with the Liverpool football history. At the epicentre stands John Houlding, president of the club and principal financial sponsor; a man instrumental in Everton's rise to national prominence and success during the 1880s and early 1890s. What has been established as his abuse of his position as *de facto* club landlord has, however, been Houlding's ultimate epitaph. Houlding's role as *rentier* to the club (owning and renting out to it its Anfield Road ground) and his commercial background in brewing and public houses, have rather easily marked him down as the motive force behind events culminating

in the split. Certainly, Houlding's perceived profiteering has been presented more stridently than any non-financial motives or goals which the conferred status of club presidency would have allowed for. However, a more detailed understanding of the foundations of Houlding's financial relationship with the club tends to question the validity of the accusations levelled at the club president. Specifically, and as we have seen in the preceding chapters, the charges against Houlding relate to the alleged encroachment upon club affairs of his brewing interests and the exploitation of his position as effective club landlord and principal source of loans. I'd like to isolate these charges now and look at them in turn.

It has been suggested that Houlding's involvement with the club was, in large part, motivated by the commercial possibilities it provided for the promotion of his brewery company, Houlding's Sparkling Ales. The sale of this ale to a captive Anfield Road matchday market is identified as a principal motive for Houlding to become associated with Everton.

2 However, the extent of any substantial exploitation of the club through his brewing interests is questionable. It is certainly the case that the Everton committee as part of their tenancy agreement did give an assurance to Houlding concerning the provision of refreshments on the Anfield Road ground. And this fact has subsequently been interpreted as evidence of Houlding's *actual* exploitation of the club's ability to attract large attendances to the Anfield Road ground. The agreement that 'If at any time refreshments should be required on the ground the Landlord shall have the sole right to make them' can certainly be read as the granting of a monopoly provision of ale to Houlding, the landlord / brewer.

3 However, the ambiguity in the wording of this agreement has not been addressed. Whatever designs Houlding may have had to provide alcohol exclusively on the ground, available evidence suggests that pressure on the Everton committee to request Houlding's produce was never forthcoming. Licensing records for the period do not reveal any documentation to demonstrate the granting of alcoholic licenses by local magistrates for the club's Anfield Road premises, and such a license would have been a necessary requirement for the sale of alcohol on match days.

4 Apart from attacks on Houlding's ownership of a public house acting as the club's matchday headquarters – the Sandon Hotel – no reference is ever made by Houlding's opponents during this publicly fought out dispute to any rather more direct and substantial financial benefits Houlding may have received from the exclusive provision of ale on the club's ground. This would have been an obvious line of attack one would expect to have been made under these circumstances. It does not seem

credible that those criticising Houlding's associations with the club on the grounds of profiteering from his drink trade connections would have failed to highlight any more substantial relations between the president and the club which the actual provision of ale on the club's ground would have represented. The profits accruing to Houlding from The Sandon's association with the club *did* become a serious bone of contention during the club dispute. However, here too the charges against

Houlding are not overwhelmingly sustainable. Houlding himself met the challenge of his accusers on the issue: 'In regard to the Sandon Hotel, of which I am landlord...the close season takings at the house are only £10 per week less than during the winter when football is in full swing'.

5 Even amongst the membership there appears to have been a philosophical acceptance of The Sandon's association with the club. Responding to committee member, William R. Clayton's censuring of Houlding's financial connection with the club via his hotel

6 one club member wrote: 'The various remarks as to profits derived from his hotel are, I think, outside the question, as whoever had been owner of the Sandon Hotel, private person or public company would have derived nearly the same benefit without in any way assisting the club'.

7 Houlding's direct financial gain resulting from his club associations and the sale of alcohol, then, would seem to be confined to the takings of his own tied house, the Sandon Hotel – an association presumably enjoyed by the owners of the number of other public houses situated a lot closer to the Anfield Road ground than Houlding's public house □ the Sandon Hotel was (and is!) approximately 200 yards from the ground.

From this, it is tempting to suggest that the critique of Houlding's exploitation of the club as part of his brewery business strategy has been rather more aggressively pursued by historians than by Houlding's contemporaries.

Perhaps of greater concern for those seeking to establish Houlding's parasitical relationship with Everton has been the club president's role as landlord of the Anfield Road ground.

The charges, here, relate specifically to Houlding's acquisition of ground ownership; his apparent failure to supply the club with a written contract of tenancy; and (relatedly) what are seen to be the arbitrary increases in rental payment faced by the club. There appears to be a misunderstanding in established accounts about the sequence of events leading to Houlding becoming club landlord. The former Everton director, Thomas Keates, a contemporary of the dispute period and the author of the first history of the club in 1928,

This list shows from the club ledgers how much players were on in the 1891 /92 season most were only on £3 a week.

The Split

Players engaged for Seasons 1891- 92 terms

J. Hall	£3.0.0 per week during Summer and	£3.0.0 during Winter
E. Chadwick	£3.0.0	£3.0.0
J. Gann	£3.0.0	£3.0.0
W. Boyle	£3.0.0	£3.0.0
A. Milward	£3.0.0	£3.0.0
J. Maroden	£3.0.0	£3.0.0
P. Gordon	£1.10.0	£2.0.0
1891- 92		
A. Latta	£3.0.0 per week during Summer and	£3.0.0 during Winter
A. Brady	£3.0.0	£3.0.0
W. Sanders	£3.0.0	£3.0.0
J. Angus	£3.0.0	£3.0.0
W. McLean	£3.0.0	£3.0.0
A. Lochhead	£2.0.0	£2.0.0
T. Wyllys	£2.10.0	£2.10.0
A. Chadwick	£1.5.0	£1.5.0
P. Gordon	£1.10.0	£2.0.0
R. Somerley	£1.10.0	£1.10.0
H. Robertson	£2.10.0	£2.10.0
J. Elliott	£1.15.0	£2.10.0
J. McMullan	£1.15.0	£2.10.0
C. Parry	£2.0.0	£2.10.0
W. Kirkwood	£2.0.0	£2.10.0
W. Campbell	£1.10.0	£2.10.0
R. Jones	£2.0.0	£2.0.0
J. S. Murray	£0.15.0	£0.15.0
S. Thomson	£3.0.0	£3.0.0
R. Kelso	£3.0.0	£3.0.0
Read at Committee Meeting May 11/91		
and approved		
John Houlding		

The Split

initiates the confusion. In this work he writes: 'As soon as prosperity in the new location seemed assured, the executive found their representative tenant [club president, Houlding] had made himself their landlord, ended their nominal tenancy and substituted a rental...'

8 This is a version of events reiterated in subsequent accounts.

9 However, this ignores comments made at the time of the club dispute which contradict this notion of a clandestine arrangement by Houlding to acquire the land rented by the club. These comments affirm rather, not only the prior knowledge of the Everton executive committee of Houlding having taken possession of the Anfield Road site in 1885, but also their petitioning of him, as president, to purchase the land – placed on the open market by its previous owner, a Mr Joseph Orrell – in order to secure the club's tenancy.

10 The *Liverpool Courier* of September 22nd, 1891, for example, reveals: Some years ago the Everton Club...found itself absolutely without a ground and it was proposed to form a company and buy the ground which the club now uses. The project was warmly supported in words...and everything, for a time pointed to a successful floating of the new company. When, however, the promises came to be submitted to the stern analysis of a preliminary meeting of promoters it was found that the total capital promised amounted to the sum of £11...Mr Barclay (the present chairman) and Mr Jackson (the present Hon. Treasurer) once more turned toward Mr Houlding and urged upon him the necessity for immediate action...The outcome of this interview was that he [Mr Houlding] purchased the land for the round sum of £6,000.

11 Similarly, claims concerning Everton's tenancy of Houlding's newly acquired land must be contested. Again, Thomas Keates sets the precedent by implying in his recollections that Houlding adopted – to the club's detriment – a deliberately open-ended and informal stance on the club's rental responsibilities: 'with an intimation [by Houlding] that, as the club's income increased so would the rent'.

12 Subsequent historical accounts of the split draw in upon this earlier assertion by Keates have helped underscore its validity. For example, Richard Day in his study, *The Motivations of Some Football Club Directors* (1976), states that: 'The amount of rent Houlding charged and the interest rates he received were the basis for the dispute that caused the club to split into two'. Day extrapolates that with 'never any written contract specifying the amount of rent to be paid Houlding could fix the rent at whatever level he considered to be a fair return on his outlay'. In the same vein, Tony Mason

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author of *The Blues and the Reds* (1985), writes that the basis for the club's tenancy at Anfield Road rested on Houlding's imposition of a 'sliding-scale procedure so that as the club's income increased, so would their rent'.

13 Certain evidence suggests, however, that the charges levelled at Houlding on this matter are insecure. Statements made in the local press by Houlding's supporters during the period of the club dispute, and confirmed by Houlding's opponents on the Everton club committee, reveal the existence of a long-standing written contract between the club and Houlding in his capacity as landlord. It was reported in the *Liverpool Courier* on the 22nd September 1891 that upon his purchase in 1885 of the land on which the club's ground stood, Houlding entered into an agreement that 'allowed the club to use it upon payment of an annual rental of 4 per cent on purchase money'.

This is an assertion confirmed in the club's own minute book from the period.¹⁴ Houlding had purchased the property from its previous owner for approximately £6,000. He only enforced those terms for the 4 per cent interest four years into the contract when the inclusion of Everton amongst the teams chosen for the inaugural Football League season in 1888-89 provided the club with a regular yearly income. Prior to this point the club had paid Houlding an annual rental of £100 (approximately 13/4 per cent of Houlding's purchase price). The agreement by the Everton Committee to carry out, fully, their rental commitment from the season 1888-1889 of 4 per cent of purchase price is recorded in the *Liverpool Echo*, 17th October, 1891.

It would appear that only in this more benign sense, then, does the claim that Houlding operated an open-ended policy towards ground rental have any foundation.

Similarly, criticism of the 5 per cent interest rate charged by Houlding on the £2,000 he loaned to the club between 1886 and 1891 for ground improvements¹⁵ can be contested by adding context.

The 5 per cent rate of interest charged by Houlding would appear to be reasonable in view of the bank rate and charges made by banks on loans and overdrafts during the period.

The average Bank of England rate from 1885, the year of Houlding's purchase of the Anfield Road site, to the end of 1891, when the club dispute approached its climax, was slightly over 3.3 per cent. Business historian, R.G. Hawtrey, in *A Century of Bank Rate* (1938), though, states that for short-term loans and overdrafts at this point in time the commercial banks sought a minimum of 1 per cent above bank rate. Though variations between the Bank of England and banking policies amongst provincial banks did

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