

## SOCCER SECRETARIES

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**NORTHERN LEAGUE:** G. Nicholson, 99, Watling Road, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham.

**WELSH LEAGUE:** S. Jenkins, 124, Margam Road, Margam, Port Talbot.

**NORTH-EASTERN LEAGUE:** J. C. Fairley, '17, Eastlands, High Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 7.

**NORTH-REGIONAL LEAGUE:** J. E. Bennison, 35, West Quadrant, Firth Park, Sheffield 5.

**CHESHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE:** J. R. Stockbridge, 15, Sandileigh Avenue, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire.

**SOUTHERN LEAGUE:** W. Dellow, 1, Cartmel Close, Great Tylers, Wray Common, Reigate, Surrey.

**WEST MIDLAND LEAGUE:** C. G. Davis, 20b, High Street, Henley-in-Arden, Solihull, Warwick.

**PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLERS' ASSOCIATION:** C. Lloyd, 105, Corn Exchange Buildings, Hanging Ditch, Manchester, 4.

## THE FRONT COVER

George Best of Ireland and Manchester United, voted Footballer of the Year, in action against Martin Peters and Geoff Hurst, both of England and West Ham United.

# GREAT SEASON BRINGS BACK FANS AND THE CASH

*Gates top 30 million mark*

**WHO** would have believed that a season sandwiched between the winning and defending of the World Cup would have stood on its own merit as the greatest in the 80 years history of the Football League?

Who could have imagined it with the echoes of an outcry against defensive football still mingling with protests against violence on the fields and terraces.

Yet the barometer of soccer's health, the attendance figures, leaves no doubts.

*The thirty million mark for League matches was left behind for the first time since the immediate post-war years when spectators were far less selective.*

The increase was an apparent 1,204,702 on a season itself inflated by a record 1,600,000. Even this is not an adequate mirror of the boom.

Millions more watched League Cup, European Cup, European Cup Winners Cup and Fairs Cup matches—none of which competitions were in existence a dozen years ago.

Prices were up and the cost of watching soccer is higher also because the percentage of seating at grounds is greater than ever before.

So what persuaded people to part with their money? There is no simple answer.

It can hardly be coincidence that the upward trend on the attendances graph began with the decision to allow live television of only one match during a season, the F.A. Cup final, and to limit even televised recordings both in numbers and in length.

Undoubtedly, too, continued overseas success both at club and international level, suggested to supporters that the best of British soccer was also the best there is.

A growing appreciation that defensive method in football is not necessarily dull was also a major factor.

So was the mildness of the weather, for the second winter in succession.

Yet none of these factors had such influence on success as the sustained fierceness of the competition—and at the top of the first division it was more intense than anywhere.

### City are worthy champions

Four clubs, Manchester City, Manchester United, Liverpool and Leeds, jostled for position with rarely more than a short head between them.

On the very last Saturday, the two Manchester teams and Liverpool were still in with a chance.

In such a close run thing it is felt that Manchester City benefited from the fact that they alone of the four were not handicapped by European responsibilities.

Yet City were worthy Champions. Manager Joe Mercer and his assistant, Malcolm Allison, introduced an audacity into the approach of their team which many found irresistible.

It could be argued they attacked mainly in order to take pressure from their own suspect defence. Whatever the reason, they won friends as well as matches.

### United break attendance record

They have for years been forced to live within the shadow of their neighbours, and it was good that their supporters could echo the anthem of 1934, when they unexpectedly won the F.A. Cup, and sang in the streets near Maine Road: 'Who said City couldn't play?'

Manchester United frittered away their chance of a record eighth championship.

But with Law seldom able to play because of injury they still boasted great personalities in Best, Charlton and Crerand.

The fact that they broke the League's average attendance record for a season is tribute enough.

Liverpool bettered Anfield's attendance figures for the second year and with an ounce more of enterprise and finish, must have carried off the title.

Leeds were the victims of their own success. They trudged through an unheard of 65 competitive games, and in the end it was too much even for them.

Their experience stressed the one really dangerous trend in this season of progress—the possibility of forgetting that players are not automatons and that without them there would be no entertainment, no excitement and, indeed, no football.

At the bottom of the first division the inevitable happened—Fulham went down. It soon became obvious that they would need another of their miracle recoveries and this time it did not happen.

### Rangers' praiseworthy feat

Sheffield United sold their twin strikers Jones (to Leeds) and Birchenall (to Chelsea). They were relegated so narrowly that it seems they transferred their status away.

Ipswich, the 1962 Champions, relegated two years later, are back in the top 22. Bill McGarry pulled them off their slippery slope and has the enthusiasm and determination to keep them in the higher bracket.

Queen's Park Rangers, promoted for the second year in succession, thus equalled the record of Charlton Athletic in 1935 and 1936. To do so in a season of so many injuries deserves special praise.

But it was hard on Blackpool who finished with seven wins and collected more points than any other non-promoted team in the second division's history.

Luton, champions of the fourth division, could be at the start of a climb back to their old glories under manager Allan Brown.

Every important issue was keenly fought but the real fairy tale finish was by Oxford United who came late to win a place in the second division only six years after achieving League status.

## YORK CITY

BAKER, Gerard  
BURROWS, Philip A.  
HODGSON, William  
JACKSON, Charles B.

MacDOUGALL,  
Edward J.  
PROVAN,  
Andrew M. H.

ROSS, Thomas  
SPRATT, Thomas  
WALKER,  
Michael S. G.

### LEAGUE APPEARANCES:

Alderson (2)17	Fellows ... (2)	Joy ..... (1)13	Spratt ..... 15
Baker ..... 41	Hawksby (2)17	MacDougall 38	Turner ..... 42
Burrows (2)32	Horrey ..... 32	Provan ..... 44	Walker, D.(5)32
Collinson .... 17	Hodgson ... 25	Ross ..... (1)37	Walker, M. 37
Fallon ..... 9	Jackson ..... 42	Spencer ... (1)14	Woodall ..... 2

GOALS—League: McDougall 15, Ross 14, Provan 13, Alderson 5, Horrey 4, Spencer 3, Burrows 2, Walker D. 2, Baker 1, Collinson 1, Hawksby 1, Jackson 1, opponents 3—65.

F.A. Cup: Nil. League Cup: Nil.

Ground: Bootham Crescent, York. (York 24447).

Nearest station: York.

Manager: Joe Shaw. Secretary: G. Teasdale.

Colours: White shirts with red trimmed neck and cuffs; white shorts.

Record home gate: 28,123 v. Huddersfield, March, 1938 (F.A. Cup).

Honours—Champions: Nil.

F.A. Cup Winners: Nil.

## WELSH F.A. CUP WINNERS (since 1900)

1900-1 Oswestry	1923-24 Wrexham	1948-49 Merthyr Tydfil
1901-2 Wellington	1924-25 Wrexham	1949-50 Swansea
1902-3 Wrexham	1925-26 Ebbw Vale	1950-51 Merthyr Tydfil
1903-4 Druids	1926-27 Cardiff	1951-52 Rhyl
1904-5 Wrexham	1927-28 Cardiff	1952-53 Rhyl
1905-6 Wellington	1928-29 Connah's Quay	1953-54 Flint
1906-7 Oswestry	1929-30 Cardiff	1954-55 Barry
1907-8 Chester	1930-31 Wrexham	1955-56 Cardiff
1908-9 Wrexham	1931-32 Swansea	1956-57 Wrexham
1909-10 Wrexham	1932-33 Chester	1957-58 Wrexham
1910-11 Wrexham	1933-34 Bristol City	1958-59 Cardiff
1911-12 Cardiff	1934-35 Tran mere	1959-60 Wrexham
1912-13 Swansea	1935-36 Crewe	1960-61 Swansea
1913-14 Wrexham	1936-37 Crewe	1961-62 Bangor
1914-15 Wrexham	1937-38 Shrewsbury	1962-63 Borough Utd.
1915-19 Abandoned	1938-39 S. Liverpool	1963-64 Cardiff
1919-20 Cardiff	1939-40 Wellington	1964-65 Cardiff
1920-21 Wrexham	1940-46 No contest	1965-66 Swansea
1921-22 Cardiff	1946-47 Chester	1966-67 Cardiff
1922-23 Cardiff	1947-48 Lovell's Ath.	1967-68 Cardiff

## Personality of the Year

# MATT BUSBY

(Manchester United Manager)

MATT BUSBY'S knighthood is arguably the most deserved by anyone connected with sport.

The crowd called for 'Busby, Busby' when Manchester United won the European Cup. Their first thoughts were for the manager despite the presence on the Wembley field of men like Player of the Year George Best, two-goal Bobby Charlton and the housewives hero Nobby Stiles.

Of course there was emotion in their appeal, but this was Busby's night and Busby's season on the grounds of achievement alone.

It is well known that he re-built a third great team after seeing one grow old after an F.A. Cup-winning peak in 1948, and another destroyed in the Munich air crash.

Forget this for a moment and also the fact that his own life was suspended by a thread at Munich and that he suffered physically while re-building his team yet again.

Set sentiment aside. Judge him only on the fact that a team, clearly an extension like all the others, of his own personality, became the first English club to win the European title—and in the same year all but coupled it with the League Championship.

There is a mystique at Old Trafford inspired by this Scot who worked in a coalmine before becoming a professional footballer.

For some reason he can persuade his players to reproduce form closer to 100% of their potential than any other group of players.

In part it is a reverence, some of it is a more earthy respect and perhaps also a gratitude for what he has done for them. The proportions vary according to the player, but the effect is the same.

They, and all football considered he should have been Sir Matt long before he was given the accolade. Who outside the game was surprised when it did happen?

## MATT BUSBY XI TAKES TOP TROPHY AT LAST

**N**OBODY was in the mood to be objective on the emotional night Matt Busby's Manchester United won the European Cup

Yet any considered view must be that although the waiting for the moment of triumph heightened its enjoyment, its coming was long delayed.

The question must be asked why the Latins were allowed to dominate from the first competition in 1956 to Celtic of Glasgow's breakthrough eleven years later.

It begins with official English disinterest, but maybe the loss of eight of Manchester United's players in the 1958 Munich air crash is almost entirely responsible.

They were, after all, returning in triumph from Belgrade where they had already qualified for the semi-final.

English teams have failed since because they did not have the necessary high degree of competence or because they lacked the experience to cope calmly with the wars of attrition, the subtle obstructions on and off the field which are encountered in Europe.

Without the lessons learned at club level England might never have become World Champions. Without England's triumph Manchester United might well have failed again. It had by last season become a question only of balancing spirit, skill and confidence. United began with a loosener against Hibernian of Malta, showed their maturity by beating a Yugoslav team Sarajevo, then survived against Gornik the Polish team who beat Dynamo Kiev, themselves conquerors of Celtic.

The semi final with Real Madrid was a match fit for a climax but after a wonderful win from behind United met Benfica, Portugal's talented Champions in the Wembley final.

With so many fine players in both sides anything less than a great match would have been hard to conceive.

Pleasurable anticipation made the whistle-stop first half all the more difficult to bear but the second half was full of football skills and high drama.

Then there was the tension of extra time but before the strain became too much for the English spectators, three goals in eight minutes sent them into a delirium of joy. It was a situation even Eusebio could do nothing about.

## European Cup Winners Cup

**I**N any other season Cardiff's performances in the European Cup Winners Cup would have stolen most of the headlines.

The first two rounds were little more than expected even for a struggling second division club. That achievement was noteworthy only in that their progress bettered that of any other British team including Spurs, surprisingly beaten by Olympique Lyon.

Cardiff's quarter final meeting with Moscow Torpedo was predicted as the end of the Cardiff surge, particularly since the second leg involved a journey to Tashkent on the borders of Asia.

Yet Cardiff not only forced a play off but won it in Augsburg. Against Hamburg in the semi-final Cardiff produced another wonderful effort which ended only with the last kick of the second leg.

In the Amsterdam final Hamburg could not match the new Italian champions Milan.

## Fairs Cup

**L**EEDS ended the season as they began it—in the final of the Fairs Cup. They lost to Dynamo Zagreb in the 1966/7 final and met Ferencvaros of Hungary, conquerors of Liverpool in the delayed 1967/8 final.

In their campaign last season Leeds beat Spora of Luxembourg 16-0 and eliminated three Scots, Dundee, Rangers and Hibernian who earlier had pulled off a remarkable triumph against Napoli after losing the first leg 1-4. j

## SEEDING PRINCIPLE SEPARATES CITY AND UNITED

**T**WO Manchester clubs in the European Cup draw caused an obvious problem and E.U.F.A. resolved it by extending the seeding principle introduced last year.

They were placed in different halves of the draw. The four semi-finalists from last year were also kept apart and it was further decided that the Scandinavian countries and the clubs from the Cyprus—Turkey—Greece group should not meet in the first round.

First-leg matches in both competitions must be played by September 18 and the return legs by October 2nd. The date for the final of the European Cup Winners Cup is set for May 21, 1969, venue to be decided.

### EUROPEAN CUP

**FIRST ROUND:** Ferencvaros, Hungary v Celtic of Glasgow, Manchester United (holders) v Waterford, Republic of Ireland. Levski Sofia, Bulgaria v Milan, Italy. Karl Zeiss Jena, E. Germany v Red Star Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Nuremberg, W. Germany v Ajax Amsterdam, Holland. AEK, Greece v Jeunesse d'Esch, Luxemburg. Rosenborg Trondheim, Norway v Rapid Vienna, Austria. Zurich, Switzerland v Dynamo Kiev, Russia. Spartak Trnava, Czechoslovakia v Malmo, Sweden. Floriana, Malta v Lahden Reipas, Finland. Steaua, Rumania v Akademisk Copenhagen, Denmark. St. Etienne, France v Ruch Chorzow, Poland. Manchester City v Fenerbahce, Turkey. Valur Reykjavik, Iceland v Benfica, Portugal. Anderlecht, Belgium v Glentoran, N. Ireland. Real Madrid, Spain v A.U. Limassol, Cyprus.

### EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS CUP

**FIRST ROUND:** Girondins Bordeaux, France v Spartak Sofia, Bulgaria. Partizani Tirana, Albania v Torino, Italy. Vasas Gyoer, Hungary v Lyn Oslo, Norway. Crusaders, N. Ireland v Kamraterna, Norrkoeping, Sweden. Altay Izmir v Gornik Zabrze, Poland. Dunfermline v Apollon Nicosia, Cyprus. Shamrock Rovers, Republic of Ireland v Freja Randers, Denmark. Grazer, Austria v A.D.O. Holland. Sliema Wanderers, Malta v Rumelange, Luxemburg. Lugano, Switzerland v Barcelona, Spain. Bruges, Belgium v West Bromwich Albion. Dynamo Bucharest, Rumania v Cologne, W. Germany. Moscow Dynamo, Russia v Greek Cup Winners. Union Berlin, E. Germany v Bor, Yugoslavia. Cardiff City v Oporto, Portugal. Slovan Bratislava, Czechoslovakia v KR Reykjavik, Iceland.

## WEST BROMWICH WIN IN EXTRA TIME

Everton 0, W. B. Albion 1

**F**OR once the F.A. Cup final was not a fitting climax to the season. Perhaps it could never have been so with the imminence of a Wembley final for the European Cup involving Manchester United plus England's further competitive tasks in Europe.

Then there was the fact that the finalists Everton and West Bromwich Albion, while undoubtedly emergent, had never been real contenders for the Championship.

Not that these considerations affected the public appeal. Black market prices were higher than ever and some 3,000 of the tickets which were in circulation at perhaps ten times their face value, proved to be forgeries.

Partisan considerations apart, both clubs had a reputation for attractive football. So it was all the more disappointing when they failed to live up to their name.

Respect for each other and the testing Wembley conditions were factors and early injuries did not help.

Everton, the favourites, were first to find their confidence and sustained an assault for much of the second half. Kaye, despite a damaged ankle which caused him to miss the extra time, and Talbut had a lot to do with keeping the score at 0-0 after 90 minutes.

Two and a half minutes after the start of the first extra period Jeff Astle maintained his record of having scored in every round of the Cup.

His right foot shot was blocked but only to a position where he could shoot home with his left.

Albion had won the Cup for the fifth time under a manager, Alan Ashman, who had taken charge only a year before.

## ENGLAND FINISH IN No. 3 PLACE

**E**NGLAND finished the season rated officially No. 3 in Europe but undoubtedly second to none.

Though beaten by Yugoslavia in the semi-final of The European Nations Cup, their form over the season was most impressive.

The lesson of the semi-final is not of faulty method or poor choice of personnel but the dangers of overplaying England's best men.

Bobby Charlton exemplifies the problem. He joined the England squad on their summer tour clearly drained emotionally and physically after his peak performances in the Manchester United European Cup campaign.

He turned out against Yugoslavia but was asking too much of himself. His passes went wrong, his stride had lost its zip. Similarly jaded men around him could not cover the extra ground.

The Slavs challenged for every ball, sometimes too fiercely. They resisted England's moderate pressure and just when extra time seemed certain, they won the match with a break-away goal.

The way the final matches went was instructive. In the match for third and fourth places, England beat Russia 2-0 and at times looked likely to overrun them.

Yet Russia had lost their semi-final to Italy only on the toss of a coin. And Italy went on to win the European title, scoring 2-0 in a replay after a 1-1 draw.

### Qualifying Group Tables

GROUP I	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals F.A.	Pts.
Spain .....	6	3	2	1	6-2	8
Czechoslovakia .....	6	3	1	2	8-4	7
Rep. of Ireland .....	6	2	1	3	5-8	5
Turkey .....	6	1	2	3	3-8	4

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals F.A.	Pts.
<b>GROUP II</b>						
Bulgaria .....	6	4	2	0	10-2	10
Portugal .....	6	2	2	2	6-6	6
Sweden .....	6	2	1	3	9-12	5
Norway .....	6	1	1	4	9-14	3
<b>GROUP III</b>						
Russia.....	6	5	0	1	16-6	10
*Greece .....	5	2	1	2	7-8	5
*Austria .....	5	2	1	2	7-9	5
Finland .....	6	0	2	4	5-12	2
*(Austria-Greece match abandoned and not replayed)						
<b>GROUP IV</b>						
Yugoslavia .....	4	3	0	1	8-3	6
West Germany .....	4	2	1	1	9-2	5
Albania .....	4	0	1	3	0-12	1
<b>GROUP V</b>						
Hungary .....	6	4	1	1	15-5	9
East Germany .....	6	3	1	2	10-10	7
Holland .....	6	2	1	3	11-11	5
Denmark .....	6	1	1	4	6-16	3
<b>GROUP VI</b>						
Italy .....	6	5	1	0	17-3	11
Rumania .....	6	3	0	3	18-14	6
Switzerland .....	6	2	1	3	17-13	5
Cyprus .....	6	1	0	5	3-25	2
<b>GROUP VII</b>						
France .....	6	4	1	1	14-6	9
Belgium .....	6	3	1	2	14-9	7
Poland .....	6	3	1	2	13-9	7
Luxemburg .....	6	0	1	5	1-18	1
<b>GROUP VIII</b> (see Home Internationals section, p. 19)						

### QUARTER FINALS

England 1 (R. Charlton) Spain 0

France 1 Yugoslavia 1

Bulgaria 3 Italy 2

Italy 2 Bulgaria 0

Yugoslavia 5 France 1

Hungary 2 Russia 0

Spain 1 England 2 (Peters, Hunter)

Russia 3 Hungary 0

### SEMI-FINALS

England 0 Yugoslavia 1 (Dzajic) at Florence.

England: Banks, Newton, Wilson, Mullery, Labone, Moore, Bail, Peters, Charlton, Hunt, Hunter.

Italy 0 Russia 0 in Naples. After extra time. Italy won on toss of coin.

### THIRD AND FOURTH PLACE FINAL

England 2 (R. Charlton, Hurst) Russia 0 in Rome.

### FINAL

Italy 1 Yugoslavia 1. After extra time. In Rome.

Replay: Italy 2 Yugoslavia 0. In Rome.