

THE Sun

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THE PEOPLE'S PAPER

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WHO CARES WINNERS!

SEE PAGES 8, 9, 10, 11, 26 & 27



Young Hero... winner Carmela with Tyrone Mings, Davina & Wills, below

TRIBUTES TO FOOTIE & TV GREATS

GENIUS

..IN THE BOX
Goalscoring ace Greaves dies age 81



THE worlds of football and TV were both in mourning last night for legends Jimmy Greaves and John Challis.

The well-loved stars died within hours of each other.

By TOM WELLS and PAUL SIMS

England goalscoring great Greaves passed away yesterday at 81 after a long illness.

Former Three Lions striker and Match of the Day host Gary Lineker called him "a



..ON THE BOX
Cancer kills Boycie star Challis, 79

truly magnificent footballer". Challis - who played second-hand car salesman Boycie in Only Fools And Horses - died of cancer aged 79.

His co-star Sir David Jason, who played Del Boy, said: "John was such a lovely man, a fine actor and a friend for over 40 years."

PAGES 4 & 5 & 8-PAGE PULLOUT

SEE PAGE 13

JIMMY GREAVES 1940-2021:

By TOM WELLS, Chief Reporter

ENGLAND acers past and present last night hailed Three Lions legend Jimmy Greaves as “the best goalscorer to ever play”.

Strikers Harry Kane and Gary Lineker were among those paying emotional tributes to the Chelsea and Spurs icon, who died yesterday aged 81. Lineker, 60, who overtook Greaves's goal haul for England in the early 1990s, said: “Quite possibly the greatest striker this country has ever produced. A charismatic, knowledgeable, witty and warm man – a giant of the sport.”

Spurs and England star Harry Kane, 28, called him “one of the great goalscorers”. Speaking before yesterday's game against Chelsea, Kane said: “Frightening, really, how good a player he was, the goal ratios that he returned, the goals he scored year in, year out.”

Greaves famously missed out on England's 1966 World Cup triumph – losing his place through injury to hat-trick hero Sir Geoff Hurst.

But he still secured his spot in football history – netting a phenomenal 44 goals in 57 games for England and becoming Tottenham's record goalscorer. He also has 357 top-flight goals to his name – still unsurpassed 50 years later.

He then captured a new generation of fans as the wisecracking co-host of ITV's hit Saint & Greaves show. His catchphrase – “It's a funny old game” – quickly became part of sporting folklore. Gary Lineker added: “A truly magnificent footballer who was at home both in the box and on the box.”

After battling alcoholism, he suffered two strokes in recent years.

His health gradually deteriorated before he passed away in the early hours of yesterday morning.

Sir Geoff, 79, tweeted: “One of the truly great goalscorers, terrific guy with an absolutely brilliant sense of humour, the best.”

Greaves's former Spurs teammate, Alan Mullery, 79, hailed him as “the best goalscorer to ever play”.

England boss Gareth Southgate, 51, added: “His place in our history will never be forgotten.”

James Peter Greaves was born in 1940 to mum Mary and Tube driver dad James, in Manor Park, North London, before the family moved east to Dagenham.

Despite living in West Ham territory, he began his career at Chelsea. Quick and direct, he racked up an astonishing 114 goals in his first full season as a youth player.

He went on to score 132 goals in 169 first-team games between 1957 and 1961, before leaving for Italian giants AC Milan.

His £80,000 move – £2million in today's money – made him one of the first English stars to play abroad.

Yesterday Italy's La Gazzetta dello Sport newspaper marked his death with the headline: “È morta la leggenda Jimmy Greaves: bomber eccezionale” – “The legend Jimmy Greaves is dead – an exceptional striker”.

Six months after his move, with nine goals in ten games, Greaves returned to England with Spurs.

From 1961 to 1970 he struck 266 times in 379 games – a club record that still stands. He helped them lift the FA Cup in 1962 and 1967, as well as the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1968.

Jimmy quickly became an England star too. He played in the 1962 World Cup and went on to score 44 goals in 57 games, including a record six hat-tricks.

After moving from Spurs, he played 40 times for West Ham

Lineker and Kane united in acclaim for 3 Lions legend



GREATEST ENGLISH STRIKER



in 1970/71 before quitting the game for almost two years.

He then turned out for a string of non-league sides, including Barnet, in the 1970s, before retiring in 1980.

The father of five's slide into alcoholism began in the 1970s, possibly sparked by him missing out on the greatest accolade of all in 1966. He recalled: “I

danced around the pitch with everyone else but even in this moment of triumph and great happiness, deep down I felt sadness.”

He added: “I was drunk from 1972 to 1977. I lost the 1970s completely.” Yet, supported by Irene – his wife of 63 years – he would stay sober for the last 40 years of his life, having only one more drink to toast his MBE in 2020.

Post-football, he became a pundit and columnist for The Sun from 1979. But it was on TV that Greaves was best-known.

He became a popular pundit on ITV's On the Ball. And in 1985 he joined former Liverpool great Ian

St John to front Saint & Greaves on ITV. The 30-minute show quickly became a cult hit because of its relaxed style.

One episode, in 1991, featured future US President Donald Trump. Incredibly, the tycoon pulled out the away teams for a League Cup draw at Trump Tower in New York.

Jimmy joked: “I haven't seen a boardroom like this since I was in Doug Ellis's at Aston Villa!”

Greaves, who had ten grandchildren and great-grandchildren, went on to become a popular after-dinner speaker.

In 2014, he sold his 1966 medal for £44,000 before suffering a stroke

a year later which left him in a wheelchair with severely impaired speech. As his health continued to decline he failed to get the knighthood so many felt he deserved.

In January, Irene, 81, revealed he cried when he heard he had got an MBE. She said: “The MBE is a small degree of recognition for him but it's 20 years too late and it's not a very good honour.”

“Jimmy deserves a knighthood, I told him that. He said, ‘Yes, yes.’”

Greaves died six months after his pal St John. He is survived by Irene and children Lynn, Mitzi, Danny and Andrew. His fifth child, Jimmy Junior, tragically died before

ON THE BALL

Hero known for great control

“Brilliant sense of humour, the best”

— SIR GEOFF HURST

“One of the greats of English football”

— BORIS JOHNSON

“His place in history won't be forgotten”

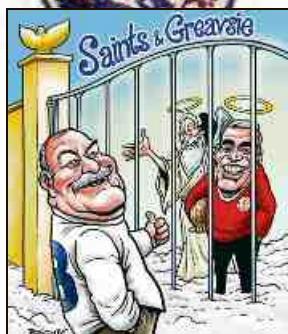
— GARETH SOUTHGATE



TRIBUTES TO FOOTIE HERO

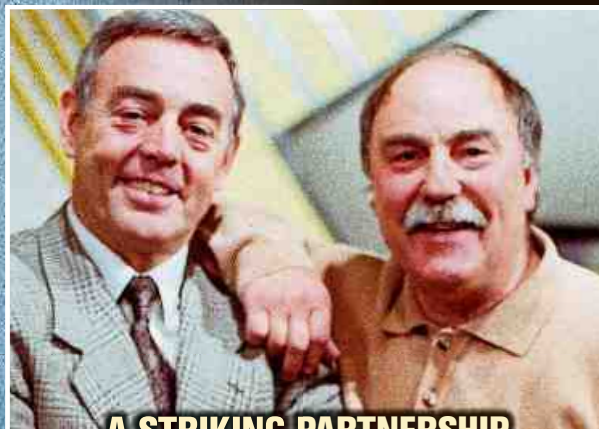


Pitch perfect . . . Greavsie in his England shirt in the early Sixties



his first birthday in 1960. Greavsie's official Twitter account posted: "Rest in peace Jim. The greatest English goalscorer that ever lived." It went on: "We will miss you always and remember the incredible fun we had for 20 years during our theatre shows." Ex-England striker Michael Owen, 41, added: "My dad always said he was the best finisher in the game." Boris Johnson tweeted: "Sad to hear the news about Jimmy Greaves. He will be remembered as a goalscoring legend and one of the greats of English football." tom.wells@the-sun.co.uk

The Sun Says — Page 12



A STRIKING PARTNERSHIP

Ian St John and Jimmy hosted ITV's Saint & Greavsie for seven years



WHITE HEART LANE

Spurs legends applaud yesterday



LAST PICTURE

Ailing Greavsie last year

GOAL KING GREAVES 100

number of league goals Greaves had scored by the age of 20. He remains the youngest player to reach the landmark



44

goals scored for England in 57 matches. He is still fourth on the all-time list behind...

- Wayne Rooney 53
- Bobby Charlton 49
- Gary Lineker 48

357

goals in English top flight, a record



41

number of goals for Chelsea in 40 league games during the 1960/61 season is still a club record at Stamford Bridge

266



goals for Spurs in 379 appearances means Greaves remains Spurs' record goalscorer

SEE 8-PAGE TRIBUTE PULLOUT AND SUNSPORT

'LIKE MESSI ON PITCH'

By LIAM COLEMAN

SPURS legends lined up pitchside at Tottenham's stadium yesterday ahead of their clash with rivals Chelsea to pay tribute to ace Jimmy Greaves.

Greaves played for both sides during his career, scoring 132 times for the Blues and 266 times for Spurs. Former stars Glenn Hoddle, Ledley King, Ossie Ardiles, Graham Roberts, Steve Perryman, Martin Chivers, Micky Hazard, Paul Allen, Gary Mab-

butt and Michael Dawson came on to the pitch before the match. Speaking ahead of the kick-off, Spurs captain Harry Kane said: "First and foremost our condolences to Jimmy's family and close ones and friends."

"It's a sad day, but hopefully we can put on a great performance in his honour." Ex-Spurs and England

striker Chivers, 76, compared Jimmy to Lionel Messi. He said: "Look at Messi, how he jinks in and out. Jimmy was like that. They'd fly out at him, but he'd tap the ball in the net."

"He was a cheeky chappy, one that always put me into trouble, all pranks and jokes. But on the field he was deadly."

Spurs could have done with Jimmy yesterday — they lost 3-0.

‘England great, fantastic bloke’

— PIERS MORGAN

‘Dad said he was best finisher ever’

— MICHAEL OWEN

‘Funny on TV & a goal-scoring great’

— PADDY McGUINNESS

JIMMY GREAVES 1940-2021

More than



HERO ... lifting the 1962 FA Cup with Spurs



TV PALS ... with sidekick Ian St John in 2009



PUNDIT ... for The Sun



HOTSHOT ... at Spurs in 1967



JOKER ... having a laugh in 1983



FRESH FACED ... at Chelsea in 1957



TUM-THING ELSE ... Saint 'n Greavsie



ROUTE 66 ... at World Cup 1966

SPUR-FECT ... Greaves in his Tottenham days and (left) as The Sun's Daily Male pin-up back in 1973

‘Goal drought was worst 20mins of his life’

FAREWELL TO A LEGEND

a goalscorer

JIMMY WAS A RECORD BREAKER,
COMEDIAN AND DEAR FRIEND

IF Jimmy Greaves had been nothing more than the most prolific goalscorer in English football history, his name would reverberate through the ages.

That he was England's greatest top-flight goalscorer by a country mile, despite retiring from the professional game at 31, made him more remarkable still.

Yet Greaves, who has died aged 81, was no mere goal machine, remarkable only for an avalanche of statistics.

He was also a much-loved TV presenter, a professional TV critic, a stand-up comedian, a supremely gifted anecdotist and raconteur as well as an inspirational fighter against alcoholism.

If you were privileged enough to know him, he was also one of the dearest friends a bloke could ever have.

To many, Greaves was more famous for one game he missed – England's 1966 World Cup final triumph – than for his 44 goals from 57 internationals or that record of 357 in 516 top-flight appearances.

That's 43 more goals than second-placed Steve Bloomer, who started scoring when Queen Victoria was on the throne, and 74 more than Alan Shearer, the next-best of the post-war era.

For almost half a century, his was the record for all of Europe's five major leagues. It needed a player as gifted as Cristiano Ronaldo to finally surpass him in 2017.

As Greaves would often tell packed houses at his theatre shows: "I had a goal drought once – it was the worst 20 minutes of my life."

That line, while one of his favourites, was completely tongue-in-cheek. Greaves wore his fame lightly and was almost contemptuous of his own goalscoring genius.

James Peter Greaves, born the son of a Tube driver in Manor Park, East London, on February 20, 1940, was a teenage sensation at Chelsea, an early pioneer overseas in a brief spell at AC Milan and an insatiable goalscorer during nine years at Tottenham.

At Spurs he would win two FA Cups and become part of the first British team to win a European trophy.

Greaves, who was leading scorer in the English top flight in six different

By **DAVE KIDD**

CHIEF SPORTS WRITER



seasons, was an outstanding dribbler capable of Messi-esque individual efforts, yet he elevated goal poaching into an art form.

While his England scoring record was outstanding, Greaves would be a spectator for the greatest game in his nation's history, the 1966 World Cup final, after suffering a gashed shin in the group match against France.

For the quarter-final, he was replaced by Geoff Hurst, who scored the winner against Argentina.

When Greaves was only approaching full fitness by the time of the final against West Germany, Alf Ramsey stuck with Hurst and the rest was history.

Contrary to popular belief, Greaves wasn't bitter about missing out on that famous 4-2 victory and hat-trick hero Hurst was a lifelong friend.

The footballing moment which caused him such devastation came in 1970 when Spurs boss Bill Nicholson offloaded him to West Ham in a swap deal involving Martin Peters.

His time at Upton Park was brief and unrewarding.

Greaves retired the following year – returning only as a non-league midfielder some years later.

When alcoholism took its grip, he admitted that the years from 1974 to 1978 were 'lost' to him.

During that time, Greaves divorced

Irene – his teenage sweetheart and the mother of his children. But the couple were soulmates who never really parted, officially remarrying in 2017, but only because they 'never got round to it' 30 or 40 years earlier.

The couple had five children, including a son who died as an infant, 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

As a footballer and later a TV personality, though, Greaves seemed to have an extended family of millions.

He was one half of Saint and Greavsie, the hugely popular ITV football show he co-hosted with Ian St John from 1985 to 1992 – where his eternal catchphrase 'It's a funny old game' was coined.

Back when football did not always take itself so seriously, the duo once successfully persuaded Donald Trump to conduct the draw for the League Cup quarter-finals.

During almost two decades with ITV, his other long-term role was as television critic for TV:AM.

After that Greaves continued to tour theatres as a gifted story-teller – his comic timing almost as sharp as his instinct for filling onion bags.

In February last year, Greaves' 80th birthday inspired an outpouring of love and affection for the man – along with an acclaimed BT Sport documentary on his life and a campaign to have him included him on the Honours List.

He was finally given an MBE in January this year.

One of the greatest honours, and joys, of my own career was to be the ghostwriter of Greaves' newspaper

column for six years and his friend for several more.

To wake up in the morning and know you would spend an hour of your working day talking to Jim was to feel fortune beyond belief.

What a privilege to tap into that treasure trove of personal knowledge about so many of the greatest names in the world game, while also enjoying the man's rich sense of humour and his uncommon kindness.

In all, he contributed brilliant columns for this newspaper and The Sunday People for 35 years.

His views were often spiky and cynical and he had a tremendous knack for debunking footballing myths, as well as excommunicating some of the game's 'saints' with earthy tales.

According to Greaves all footballers were cheats, all talk of tactics was overblown because playing football was basically 'chaos' and all managers were racketeers enriched each time they were sacked for failing.

He recalled watching Pele leap in the air to lay out an Argentinian defender with a headbutt during an international at the Maracana.

He'd tell you that Sir Bobby Charlton was an inveterate whinger who tried to referee every match he played, while Sir Stanley Matthews used to flog black-market cigarettes to his team-mates.

It was a huge regret that he out-lived two of his greatest footballing friends, Bobby Moore and George Best, by so many years.

He said he was devastated to witness alcoholism defeat a man 'as intelligent as George'.

Greaves never touched a drop of booze after 1978 and yet he battled the temptation every day, claiming that he was as aware of his condition as a man who had to screw on a wooden leg every day of his life.

Yet paradoxically he continued to be the life and soul of boozed-up rooms as an after-dinner speaker, as well as at newspaper Christmas lunches.

A severe stroke in May 2015 left Greaves unable to walk unaided and with his speech severely impaired.

Irene remained at his side but regretted bitterly that she'd 'lost my best mate' due to the devastating nature of that stroke.

Many of us have lost a dear friend with Greaves' passing.

He was England's greatest goalscorer but he was so very much more than that.



PRIDE OF LIONS... Greaves is England's fourth-highest scorer – 44 goals in 57 caps

**8-PAGE
GREAVES
PULLOUT
INSIDE**

“He had an extended family of millions”

JIMMY GREAVES 1940-2021

TRIBUTES



SPURS HEROES LEAD APPLAUSE (left to right) . . . Ossie Ardiles, Gary Mabbutt, Ledley King, Paul Allen, Micky Hazard, Steve Perryman, Glenn Hoddle, Martin Chivers and Michael Dawson

LEGEND . . . players and fans inside Spurs' huge modern stadium unite to applaud a distinctly old-fashioned icon

Clubs he loved unite for perfect send-off

ASIDE from a keen mutual loathing, there is little that unites Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea.

And yet, shortly before the renewal of hostilities in this bitter London derby yesterday, supporters of both clubs stood as one and applauded the greatest goalscorer this nation has ever known.

Jimmy Greaves – the most prolific striker in Tottenham's history and one of Chelsea's own – always had immaculate timing, as a footballer, a broadcaster and the drollest of raconteurs.

So for his nearest and dearest it will have been poignant, but also the source of bleak amusement, that Greaves should die on the day that Spurs played Chelsea.

It was perfect timing for supporters of both clubs to pay tribute to a man who, while contemptuous of his own fame, always loved an audience.

They were here in a £1billion stadium, to watch two of the finest strikers in the modern game – £97.5million Romelu Lukaku and Harry Kane, a man all the oil wealth in Abu Dhabi could not buy. They were here at

By **DAVE KIDD**

CHIEF SPORTS WRITER



a match which will have been watched around the globe, like any major fixture in the Premier League – a phenomenally successful commercial operation which often conveniently forgets its past.

But all of this was built on the underpaid genius of folk heroes such as Greaves. And yesterday they remembered him.

Greaves certainly didn't begrudge modern footballers earning millions. But he would happily admit that he begrudged the fact he hadn't earned the same himself.

He also found the hype around the modern game perplexing, including the fixation with "Premier League history" and "all-time Premier League records".

Like Alan Shearer's "record" of 260 Premier League goals. Without mention of the fact that Greaves netted 357 in the English top flight before he retired aged 31. This magnificent stadium stands a hundred

yards or so from the old Lane, where Greaves was a smiling assassin.

Where Greaves would enjoy a sly half-time cigarette when Bill Nicholson wasn't looking.

Where Greaves would leave the muddy soup of a communal bath and head straight to the Bell & Hare pub on the Tottenham High Road and sink ales with his public, without a roped-off area or any semblance of a superiority complex.

The older members of this 60,000 audience would have witnessed Greaves in his pomp. Many younger ones were here because their fathers and grandfathers fell in love with the game watching Greaves.

While Chelsea wiped the floor with Nuno Espirito Santo's side – thanks to goals from Thiago Silva, N'Golo Kante and Antonio Rudiger – Spurs did him proud yesterday.

Before that minute's applause, Greaves was rightly announced as "a legend of both clubs". A line-up of blazered Spurs heroes – Glenn Hoddle, Steve Perryman, Ossie Ardiles, Graham Roberts, Gary Mabbutt, Ledley King, Paul Allen, Micky Hazard, Martin Chivers and Michael Dawson – joined both teams in their ovation.

Chivers and Perryman, who played with Greaves, offered warm words at half-time.

And on the big screens, there was grainy footage of the man himself gliding across those mud-bath surfaces, like a spectral flash of white on a night-vision camera.

Then that machete of a left foot doing its murderous business, compelling grown men to tumble down terracing in euphoric waves. Football was very different back then but those clips made it clear that Greaves would have been lethal in any era.

And just imagine if a modern coach could have persuaded him to give up the Woodbines and actually shake a leg in training.

Not that Greaves himself would have liked all this fuss being made of him.

In his latter years as a newspaper columnist, he would attend Christmas lunches.

The sports editor would make an annual toast: "To the greatest living Englishman!" To which Greaves would respond: "F*** off!"

Thanks to Manchester City's inability to land Kane, Greaves' Tottenham scoring record is likely to fall.

The current England captain has 223 goals for the club, Greaves scored 266.

Tottenham was where Greaves peaked but it was as a teenage sensation at Chelsea where he enjoyed his football most.

He would recall travelling on match days

TO GREATEST OF THE GREATS



RESPECT . . . Greaves at Spurs HQ with Kane in 2017

GAME

From Back Page out. For someone like me to look at those numbers and try to achieve those numbers would be incredible.

"RIP Jimmy Greaves. A true legend and one of the great goalscorers."

Three Lions boss Gareth Southgate added: "Jimmy was someone admired by all who love football, regardless of club allegiances.

"The entire game will mourn his passing. "He deserves inclusion in any list of England's best players, given his status as one of our greatest goalscorers and his part in our 1966 World Cup success.

"We will pay tribute to his memory at our home match with Hungary at Wembley next month. His place in our history will never be forgotten."

Greaves, a member of Sir Alf Ramsey's World Cup-winning squad, scored 44 goals in just 57 Three Lions games.

Hurst, who scored a hat-trick in England's 4-2 World Cup final triumph over West Germany after being selected in place of the injured Greaves, tweeted: "One of the truly great goalscorers, terrific guy with an absolutely brilliant sense of humour, the best."

Greaves began his career at Chelsea, turning pro in May 1957. He scored on his Blues debut and went on to net 132 goals for them.

He joined AC Milan in 1961 but after a season moved to Spurs' famous Double-winners and hit 266 goals before leaving for West Ham and later playing at Barnet.

Greaves launched a successful TV career as a pundit, alongside former Liverpool striker Ian St John in popular ITV show *Saint and Greavsie* from 1985 to 1992, where he coined his famous catchphrase: "It's a funny old game".

After a long campaign Greaves finally received a World Cup winners' medal in 2009 — five

years later he sold it out. For someone like me to look at those numbers and try to achieve those numbers would be incredible.

Greaves had suffered a minor stroke in 1992, from which he recovered but it was followed by a serious stroke in May 2015 that saw him unconscious for six days in intensive care before he left hospital in a wheelchair.

Former England striker Gary Lineker hailed him as "possibly the greatest striker this country has ever produced," adding: "A truly magnificent footballer who was at home both in and on the box. A giant of the sport."

Ex-Tottenham teammate Alan Mullery added: "He was a wonderful footballer, the best goalscorer to ever play. "He scored goals for fun, you'd get no players like him today."

Greaves won the Cup Winners' Cup in 1963 and the FA Cup twice. Tottenham, Chelsea, West Ham, Uefa and Prime Minister Boris Johnson paid tributes. The PM said: "He will be remembered as a goalscoring legend and one of the greats of English football."

Spurs legends including Ossie Ardiles, Gary Mabbutt, Ledley King, Martin Chivers, Steve Perryman and Graham Roberts were pitchside at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium to acknowledge Greaves ahead of a 3-0 loss to Chelsea. Chivers compared him to Lionel Messi, while Argentina World Cup winner Ardiles said: "Jimmy epitomises what Spurs is: To dare is to do. "When you meet the great goalscorer in heaven it matters not if you win or lose but how you played the game."



SUCCESSOR . . . Kane is chasing Greaves' record

to Fulham Broadway on the Tube trains his dad used to drive.

And stealing extra luncheon vouchers from the club office where he worked as an apprentice to fund lunches at a greasy-spoon cafe with his team-mates.

Greaves scored 132 goals in 169 appearances for the Blues.

But he remembered, with a smile, that

many of these exploits were in vain, that the Chelsea team of the late 1950s were more likely to lose 5-4 than win 1-0.

At Spurs he would fall into the company of legends, joining the season after the 1961 Double triumph, collecting two FA Cups and a European Cup Winners' Cup — the first British team to secure a European trophy.

Greaves had rich anecdotes about Danny Blanchflower, Dave Mackay, Cliff Jones, Bobby Smith, Alan Gilzean, Pat Jennings and dear John White, taken before his time.

And while he often spoke of his old team-mates' brilliance as footballers, he spoke of them primarily as friends, which mattered to him more.

After his transfer to London rivals West Ham in 1970, Greaves and Tottenham were estranged for decades.

Yet soon before he suffered a massive stroke in 2015, he had agreed to be inducted into the club's Hall Of Fame.

And during the six-and-a-half long years of illness that followed, he visited the new Lane and the club's training ground, meeting Kane on more than one occasion.

Kane appreciated the man whose record he is hunting down.

And yesterday, for once, they all did.

BRIDGE THE GAP . . . as a youngster at Chelsea

NOBLE ON AS A SUB TO TAKE PEN... & MISSES!

See **goals** pullout



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Sun Sport



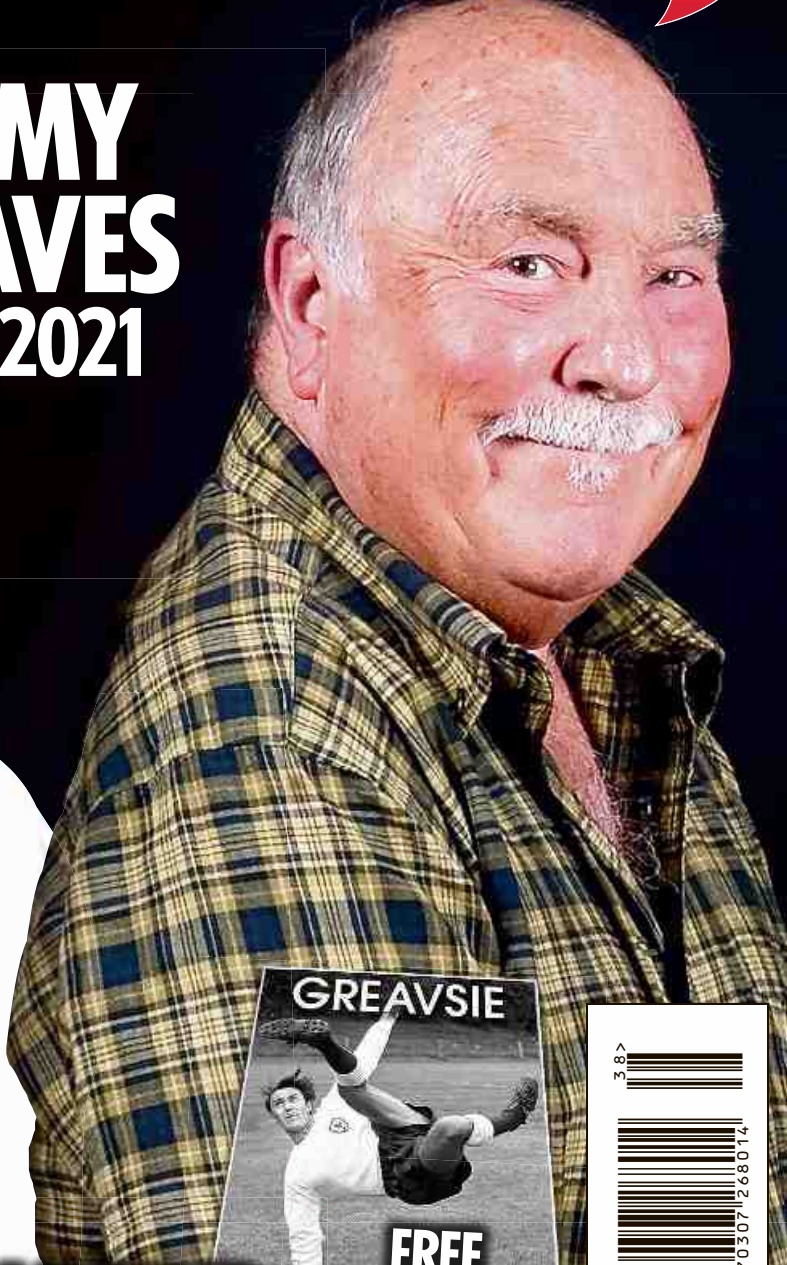
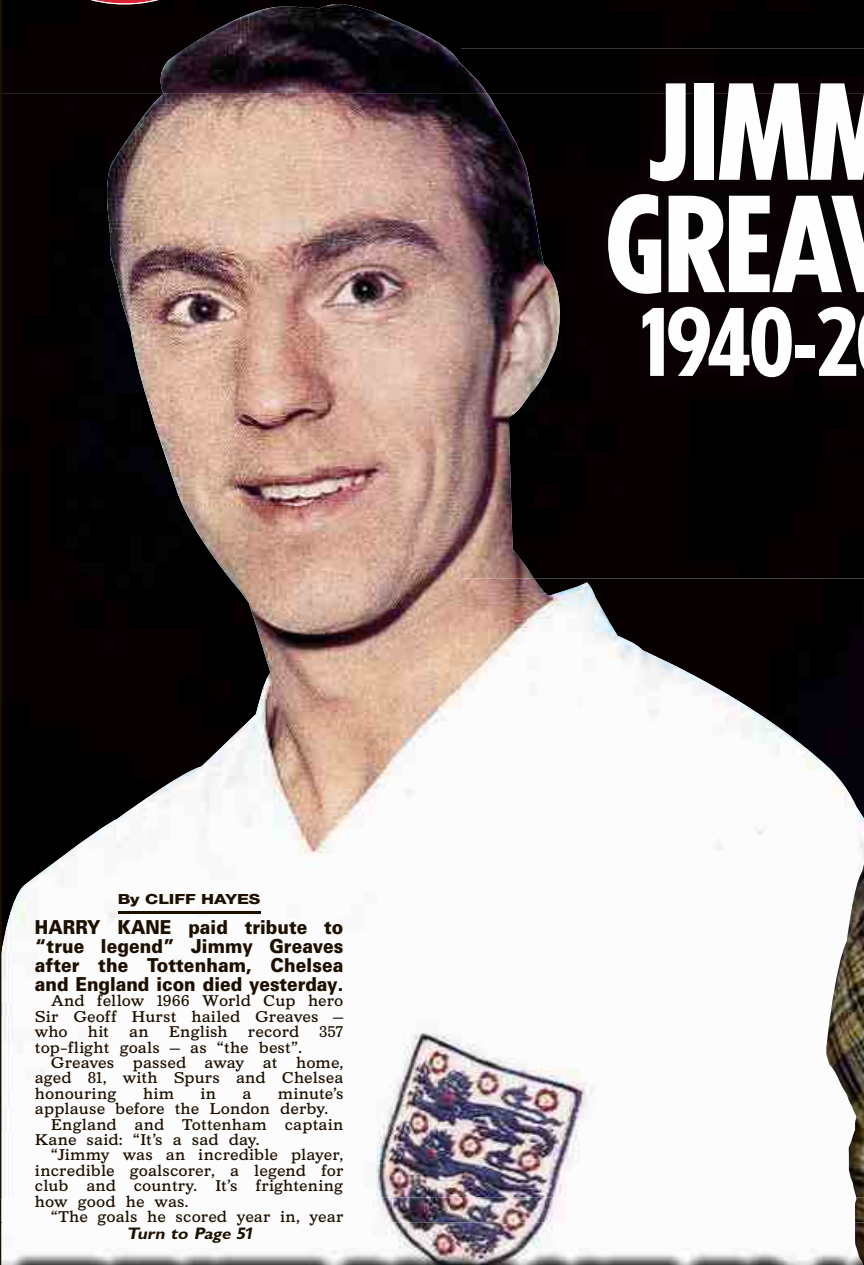
CHELSEA THRASH SPURS IN BATTLE OF HIS OLD CLUBS

See Page 47

AS GREAVSIE WOULD SAY..!

It's a funny old game

JIMMY GREAVES 1940-2021



By **CLIFF HAYES**

HARRY KANE paid tribute to "true legend" Jimmy Greaves after the Tottenham, Chelsea and England icon died yesterday.

And fellow 1966 World Cup hero Sir Geoff Hurst hailed Greaves – who hit an English record 357 top-flight goals – as "the best".

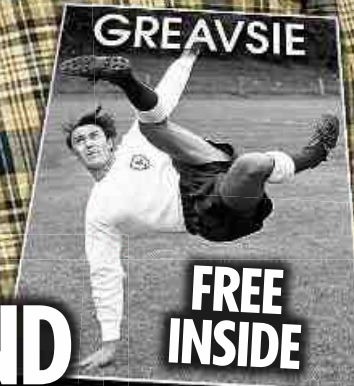
Greaves passed away at home, aged 81, with Spurs and Chelsea honouring him in a minute's applause before the London derby.

England and Tottenham captain Kane said: "It's a sad day."

"Jimmy was an incredible player, incredible goalscorer, a legend for club and country. It's frightening how good he was."

"The goals he scored year in, year

Turn to Page 51



TRIBUTE PULLOUT TO LEGEND

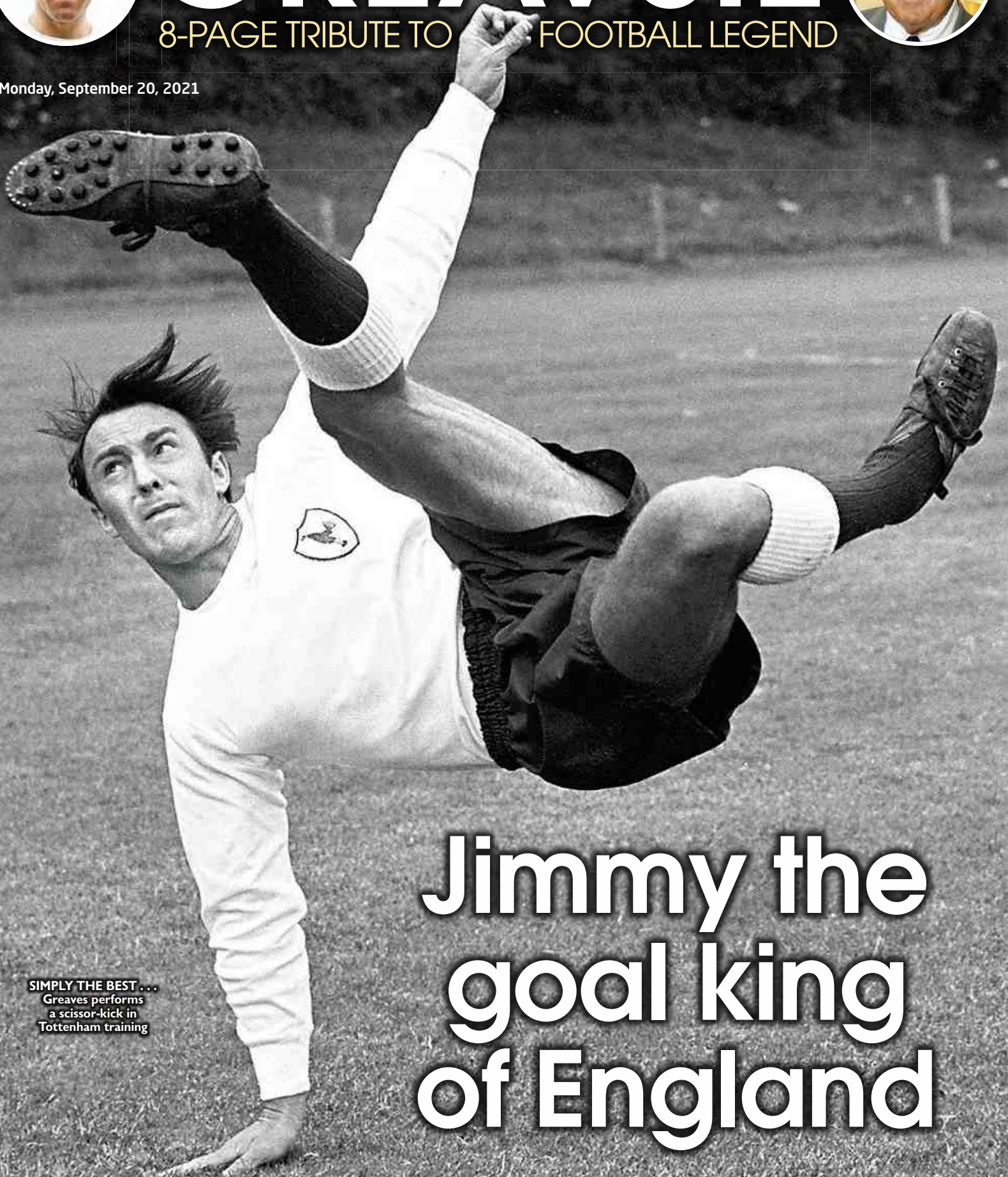


GREAVSIE



8-PAGE TRIBUTE TO FOOTBALL LEGEND

Monday, September 20, 2021



SIMPLY THE BEST...
Greaves performs
a scissor-kick in
Tottenham training

Jimmy the goal king of England

JIMMY GREAVES 1940-2021

He'd have outgunned even Messi & Ronaldo



FOURMIDABLE . . . Greaves signed off at Chelsea in 1961 with all four in 4-3 win over Nottm Forest



PROSPECT . . . as a Blues kid in 1956

IT would be very interesting to know just how many millions Pep Guardiola or Jurgen Klopp would have been prepared to pay to buy Jimmy Greaves in his prime.

It is a pointless exercise trying to compare great footballers of different eras – but it always provides heated discussions among fans.

And I would be prepared to argue until I'm claret and blue in the face that if you put Greavsie in today's Barcelona or Real Madrid shirt he would score as many – if not more goals – than Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

It is much easier for Messi and Ronaldo to score playing on the manicured lawns they

By COLIN HART



have grown up on than the clinging mud-heaps Jimmy had to contend with.

It must not be forgotten that in Greaves' day there were no TV cameras to protect him from all those assassins who called themselves defenders.

You don't have to be a professional football scout to know when you see a goalscoring genius.

And I shall never forget the first time I set eyes on Jimmy.

It was Easter Monday, 1957. I had just got home from Cyprus having finished my two years of National Service in the RAF. West

Ham were away and my old man persuaded me to go with him to see the England v Ireland youth international at Leyton Orient's ground.

We paid one penny for the programme and joined the couple of thousand on the Brisbane Road terraces as the teams lined up.

Soon after kick-off, the England No8 with the brush crew-cut and baggy shorts received the ball on the edge of the Irish penalty area.

In a flash, he dribbled past three green-shirted defenders and slotted the ball in the corner of the net.

My old man and I looked at each other and he said, 'Who the bloody hell is that?' I think he said bloody.

A quick glance at the programme told us

it was J Greaves (Chelsea). That unforgettable afternoon J Greaves (Chelsea) scored a hat-trick in just 20 minutes and ended up with five of England's six goals. He was 16 years old.

We both knew we had been watching someone who was quite outstanding.

But we obviously had no idea he would go on to become one of the game's most prolific goalscoring machines.

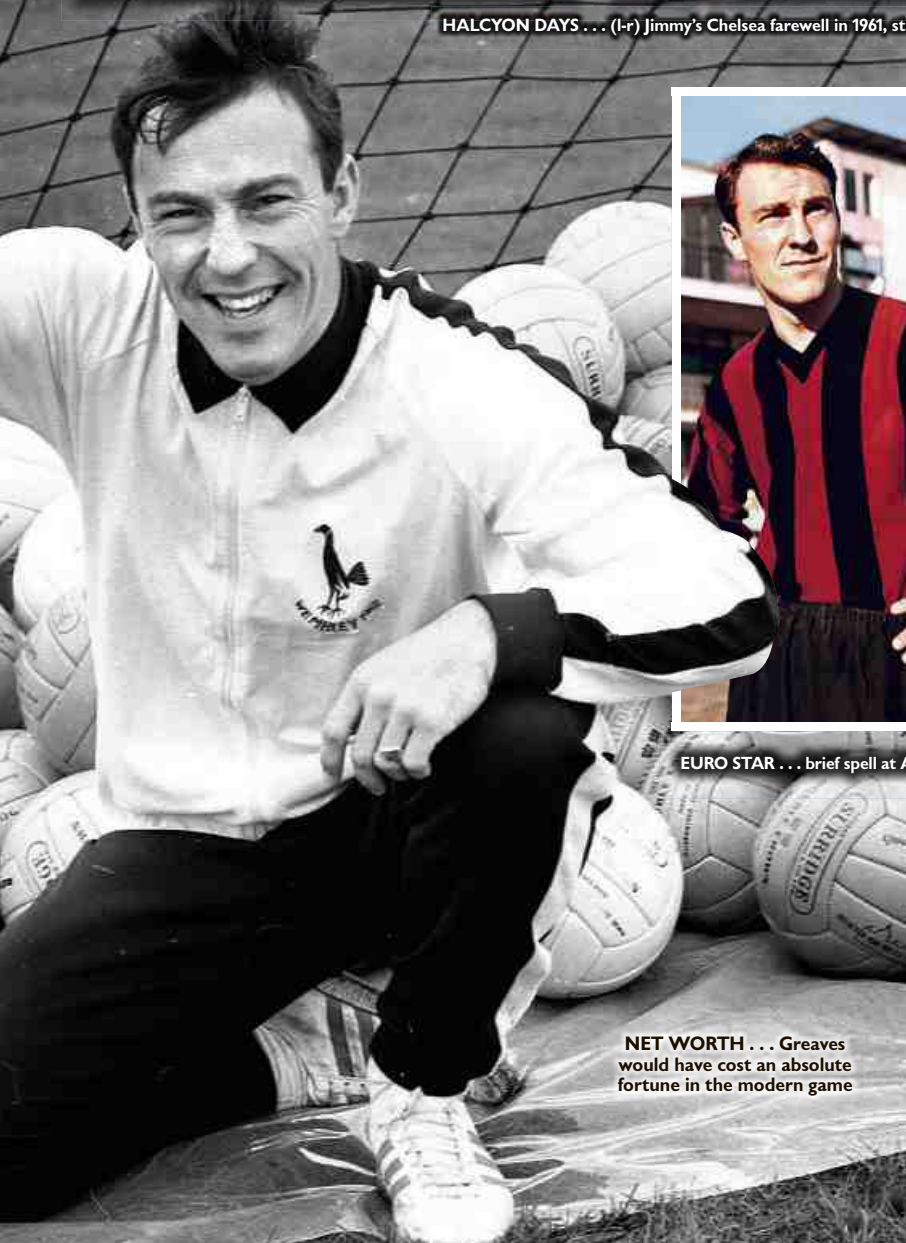
A few months later he scored on his debut for Chelsea in the old First Division and in four years with the club he hit the net 124 times – averaging 31 a season.

Before his top-flight career was over, he scored a quite remarkable 357 goals. And 44 in an England shirt.

Ah, the youngsters will say that's nothing compared to Wayne Rooney who racked up



HALCYON DAYS . . . (l-r) Jimmy's Chelsea farewell in 1961, starting for England at 1966 World Cup and with Danny Blanchflower and FA Cup at Spurs in 1962



EURO STAR . . . brief spell at AC Milan in 1961



SNAP HIM UP . . . Jimmy larking around while at Tottenham in 1962

NET WORTH . . . Greaves would have cost an absolute fortune in the modern game



FEISTY . . . Jim fury after goal v Arsenal in 1967 ruled offside and with Lions (inset)

53. My answer to that sneer is Jimmy had 57 caps – while Rooney had 120. I will have to concede that Greaves was nowhere near as good an all-round player as the Messis and Ronaldos of the 21st century. In fact, I wouldn't have been surprised if he couldn't get in one of Jose Mourinho's, or other modern manager's, teams. You see, he didn't double back to cover his full-back. Maybe because his full-backs didn't cross the halfway line. I have been a West Ham fan for 80 years now and in my time I have seen, in the flesh, some of the greatest strikers of all-time. Unfortunately Pele isn't one of them. But they include, Ferenc Puskas, Alfredo Di Stefano, Denis Law, George Best, Bobby







Charlton, Tommy Lawton and Eusebio. But I have never seen anyone with such a predatory instinct for a goal. Inside the six-yard box he was as deadly as a venomous snake – and just as quick. He would pounce on the ball, wriggle like an eel past disbelieving defenders and hit the back of the net before they could blink. Jimmy couldn't explain how he did it. He didn't have a secret formula or strategy that he could pass on to youngsters – most of the time what he did was pure instinct. My heart was always in my mouth when he played against the Hammers. He didn't just score half-chances, he scored quarter-chances. After scoring 220 times for Spurs he joined West Ham in 1970. But by then, because of his excessive drinking, the spark

had gone out of his game. Yet he still managed to score 13 times in 38 matches. If only David Moyes had someone that good now. I have so many memories of Jimmy when he was at his deadliest playing for Spurs, Chelsea, West Ham and England. So what was the greatest goal I saw him score? The one that is always uppermost in my mind was the night I was watching Match of the Day. I believe Spurs were playing Sunderland. He picked up the ball in the centre-circle and went on this mazy run. He ghosted by four floundering defenders, dribbled round the despairing, onrushing keeper and stroked the ball into the net with the nonchalance of a master craftsman. Unfortunately, I can't boast that Jimmy

was a friend of mine, although I did have the pleasure of meeting him on many occasions. Despite his fame he was extremely modest and down-to-earth. He would never dream of saying so but some of the behaviour of the multi-millionaire superstars who grace the game today would have appalled him. When he became a TV star with Ian St John the nation was able to enjoy his cheeky Cockney humour. There's no doubt Greaves sits comfortably alongside Bobby Moore, Sir Bobby Charlton, Sir Stanley Matthews, George Best, Wayne Rooney and the other giants of British football. I just wish someone could explain to me why he was never Sir Jimmy.

STATS AMAZING: A SUPERST

SENIOR CAREER RECORD

	Chelsea (1957-61)	Games 169	Goals 132
	AC Milan (1961)	Games 14	Goals 9
	Tottenham (1961-70)	Games 379	Goals 266
	West Ham (1970-71)	Games 40	Goals 13
	England (1959-67)	Games 57	Goals 44
	Barnet (1977-79)	Games 64	Goals 25

34 JIMMY GREAVES scored 34 hat-tricks in his career, with a club-record 15 at Tottenham, 13 at Chelsea, which is also a club record and six for England — yet again a record for the Three Lions.

357 HIS goal haul of 357 in English top-flight football remains a record. Greaves also scored at a rate of 0.69 goals per game in the top flight. That is also a record among players who have netted 200 or more in the post-World War Two period.

100 HE made his senior debut at Chelsea aged 17 and then hit 100 league goals before his 21st birthday. Despite only spending four seasons as a Blues player, Greaves is seventh in their all-time scoring charts with 132 goals in 169 games.

HONOURS

	England World Cup 1966
	AC Milan Serie A 1961-62
	Tottenham FA Cup 1962, 1967
	Charity Shield 1962, 1967 (shared)
	European Cup Winners' Cup 1962-63

GREAVES FACTFILE

Age	81
Birthplace	Manor Park
Height	5ft 8in
Youth career	Chelsea

SENIOR PLAYING CAREER (all competitions)

	GAMES	GOALS
1957-58 Chelsea	37 ●	22 ●
1958-59 Chelsea	47 ●	37 ●
1959-60 Chelsea	42 ●	30 ●
1960-61 Chelsea	43 ●	43 ●
1961 AC Milan	14 ●	9 ●
1961-62 Tottenham	30 ●	29 ●
1962-63 Tottenham	48 ●	43 ●
1963-64 Tottenham	45 ●	36 ●
1964-65 Tottenham	45 ●	35 ●
1965-66 Tottenham	31 ●	16 ●
1966-67 Tottenham	47 ●	31 ●
1967-68 Tottenham	48 ●	29 ●
1968-69 Tottenham	52 ●	36 ●
1969-70 Tottenham	33 ●	11 ●
1970 West Ham	6 ●	4 ●
1970-71 West Ham	34 ●	9 ●
TOTAL	602	420



ALL-TIME TOP

JIMMY GREAVES	GOALS	420
Steve Bloomer (1892-1914)	GOALS	386
Dixie Dean (1924-38)	GOALS	345
Gordon Hodgson (1925-40)	GOALS	338
Alan Shearer (1988-2006)	GOALS	305
David Jack (1920-34)	GOALS	298
Charlie Buchan (1912-28)	GOALS	297
Nat Lofthouse (1946-60)	GOALS	283
Joe Bradford (1921-35)	GOALS	278
Hughie Gallacher (1925-38)	GOALS	277
Joe Smith (1908-27)	GOALS	276
George Brown (1921-35)	GOALS	275
George Camsell (1921-39)	GOALS	274
Ian Rush (1980-98)	GOALS	273
David Herd (1954-70)	GOALS	272
Harry Hampton (1904-22)	GOALS	271
Billy Walker (1919-33)	GOALS	270
Tony Cottee (1982-2000)	GOALS	269
Dave Halliday (1925-33)	GOALS	268
Geoff Hurst (1959-75)	GOALS	257

6 GREAVES finished the top-flight's top scorer in six separate seasons during his time at Chelsea and Tottenham — something that had never been done before and never matched since. Amazingly, the only full season of his career in which he did not reach double figures was his final campaign at West Ham when he hit the net nine times in 34 games at the age of 31.

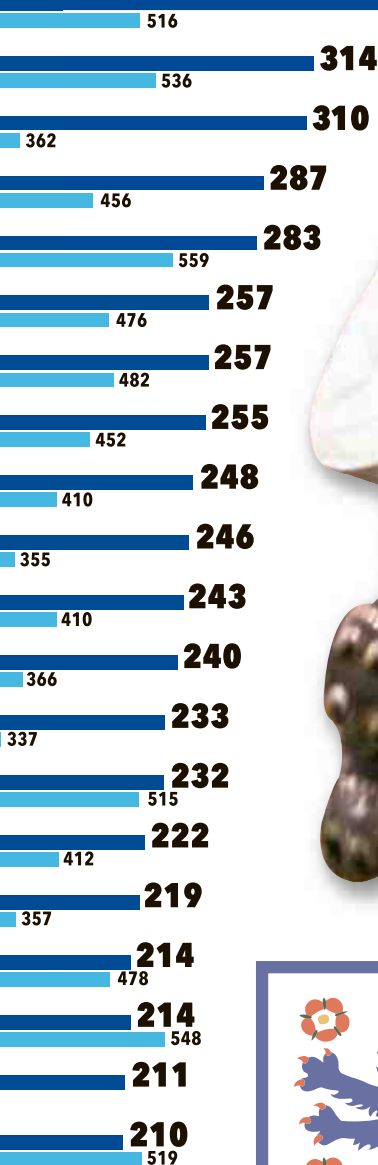
57 IT took Greaves a mere 57 games to score his 44 England goals and he averaged a goal every 116.5 minutes in a Three Lions shirt. To put that into context, it took Wayne Rooney 100 caps to reach the same number of goals on his way to a record 53 strikes for his country.

41 IN the 1960-61 campaign, a prolific Greaves plundered a whopping 41 league goals. That remains a record at Stamford Bridge to this day, with no player ever managing so many in a single season. Bobby Tambling came closest to reaching that haul with 37 strikes in 1962-63.

TAR'S CAREER BY NUMBERS

TOP-FLIGHT SCORERS

(1957-71) **357**



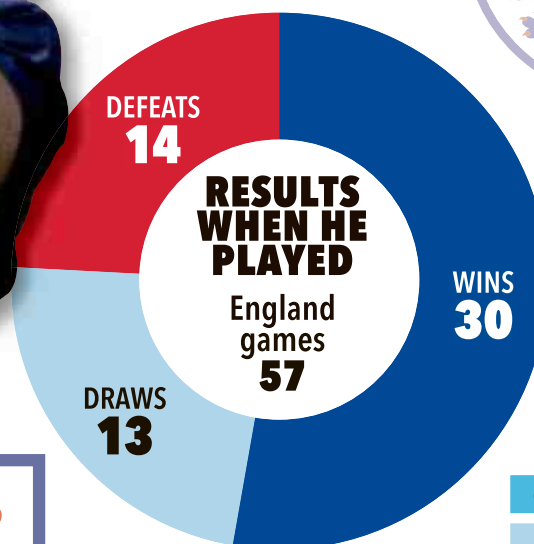
HIS ENGLAND CAREER

Debut	19y 2m v Peru (May 17, 1959)
Last cap	27y 3m v Austria (May 27, 1967)
First goal	19y 2m v Peru (May 17, 1959)
Career length	8 years 10 days

Caps	Starts	Subbed off	Subbed on	Full games
57	57	0	0	57

COMPETITIONS GAMES PLAYED

Friendlies	29
Home Championship	13
World Cup finals	7
Euro qualifier	3
Nations Cup	3
World Cup qualifier	2
Home games	23
Away games	28
Neutral	6



ENGLAND ALL-TIME SCORERS

Wayne Rooney (2003-18)	53
Bobby Charlton (1958-70)	49
Gary Lineker (1984-92)	48
JIMMY GREAVES (1959-67)	44
Harry Kane (2015-present)	41
Michael Owen (1998-2008)	40
Tom Finney (1946-58)	30
Alan Shearer (1992-2000)	30
Nat Lofthouse (1950-58)	30
Frank Lampard (1999-2014)	29
Vivian Woodward (1903-11)	29
Steve Bloomer (1895-1907)	28
David Platt (1989-96)	28

ENGLAND'S BEST ALL-TIME GOALS-PER-GAME

(Minimum: 30 caps) GOALS-PER-GAME

Player	GAMES	GOALS	GOALS-PER-GAME
Nat Lofthouse	33	30	0.91
JIMMY GREAVES	57	44	0.77
Harry Kane	64	41	0.64
Gary Lineker	80	48	0.60
Roger Hunt	34	18	0.53
Peter Crouch	42	22	0.52
Geoff Hurst	49	24	0.49
Alan Shearer	63	30	0.48
Bobby Charlton	106	49	0.46
Mick Channon	46	21	0.46
Michael Owen	89	40	0.45
Wayne Rooney	120	53	0.44
David Platt	62	27	0.44
Tom Finney	76	30	0.39
Danny Welbeck	42	16	0.38
Tony Woodcock	42	16	0.38
Paul Mariner	35	13	0.37
Jermain Defoe	57	20	0.35
Kevin Keegan	63	21	0.33
Johnny Haynes	56	18	0.32

PLAYED UNDER ENGLAND MANAGERS

Alf Ramsey	32
Walter Winterbottom	25

WHEN HE SCORED FOR ENGLAND

0-15min	4
16-30	14
31-45	6
46-60	6
61-75	6
76-90	8

TOTAL 44

MOST GAMES WITH ENGLAND TEAM-MATES

Bobby Charlton	47
Bobby Moore	38
Ray Wilson	35
Ron Flowers	32
Jimmy Armfield	31



124 THE legendary striker started his professional career with Chelsea in 1957 and appeared in the FA Youth Cup final the following year where they lost to Wolves.

When he was sold to Italian giants AC Milan for £80,000 in April 1961, Greaves had scored 124 goals in the top-flight in just **FOUR** seasons.

5 AT Tottenham he won five trophies — the FA Cup in 1961-62 and 1966-67, the 1962-63 Cup Winners' Cup and the Charity Shield in 1962 and 1967. However, he never got his hands on the top-flight title at White Hart Lane. The closest he came was when they finished as runners-up to Everton in 1962-63, Greaves ending the campaign as top scorer with 37 goals.

220 GREAVES is Tottenham's top scorer in the league with 220 goals. He is 44 ahead of next best Bobby Smith on 176, with Harry Kane third on 166. Greaves also scored 32 Spurs goals in the FA Cup, five in the League Cup and nine in Europe, and his total of 266 is also a club record in all competitions.

JIMMY GREAVES 1940-2021



SIMPLY THE BEST . . . Greavsie scoring for England and (inset) looking through his collection of caps for his country



By **MARK IRWIN**



JIMMY GREAVES will always be remembered for the game he did not play.

But if he had been selected for the 1966 World Cup final it is a fair bet that England would not have needed extra-time to beat West Germany.

No post-war British player even comes close to matching Greaves' astonishing scoring records for club or country.

Yet he finished his remarkable career with just two FA Cup winners' medals and one from the 1963 European Cup Winners' Cup final.

Thirty-three years after the event, he was finally presented with a World Cup medal along with the other surviving members of the England squad who had not made Sir Alf Ramsey's starting team in 1966.

But it was a token gesture to a footballer who did not need golden baubles to validate his genius.

Because Greaves had already cemented his legend years earlier thanks to 479 career goals during a spectacular career with Chelsea, AC Milan, Spurs, West Ham and England.

Even now it is hard to believe that the last of his 57 England caps came at the age of 27, when most professional footballers are just about to enter their peak.

He scored 44 times for his country, including a record six hat-tricks, at a strike-rate of one goal every 1.29 games.

Wayne Rooney, Bobby Charlton and Gary Lineker subsequently claimed more England goals but it took them all considerably more games to overtake his haul.

He is not quite the most prolific England scorer of all time – George Camsell scored at an unbelievable two-per-game between 1929 and 1936.

But certainly since the abolition of the maximum wage for footballers in 1961 Greaves has been in a league of his own in terms of cold-eyed ruthlessness.

He was still 11 weeks shy of his 21st birthday when he scored his 100th league goal and he finished as the First Division's top scorer on six occasions.

Greaves scored 132 times in the first four seasons of his career at Chelsea, when he lived in a flat above Wimbledon's old Plough Lane stadium.

And even though he signed for Spurs in the middle of the 1961-62 season, he still finished the campaign with 30 goals for Bill Nicholson's team.

Fifty years after last kicking a ball for the club, he remains Tottenham's all-time record goalscorer with 266 goals, still 43 clear of current Spurs idol Harry Kane. But it was

not just the quantity of Greaves' goals which made him so special. It was also the sheer quality of them.

Like an English George Best, he would slalom his way through opposing defences with the ball seemingly tied to the end of his boot, leaving all in his wake before passing into the net.

And remember, this was in an era when pitches often resembled a battlefield and no prisoners were taken by defenders full of evil intent.

Yet Greaves, by and large, was simply too clever and too elusive for the 60s' hatchetmen.

Unfortunately, the one he could not avoid was French midfielder Joseph Bonnel, who raked his studs down Greaves' shin during

England's final group game of the 1966 World Cup.

That left him nursing a gash which required 14 stitches to close and opened the door for fellow frontman Geoff Hurst to become a national hero.

Remarkably, Greaves managed just three more appearances for his country after that as Ramsey stuck with Hurst in spite of Greaves' far superior strike-rate.

Yet it was a snub which he shrugged off without a hint of bitterness as he continued to score at an unprecedented rate for Tottenham.

It was only when Spurs told him he was being swapped for West Ham's Martin Peters in 1970 that he became disillusioned with football and started his slow descent into

alcoholism. But he was honest enough to confront his demons and, supported by his wife Irene, remained resolutely sober for the final 40 years of his life.

I was privileged to work with Jimmy at the very beginning of my journalism career when I ghosted his column for Shoot magazine.

He was one of the funniest people I have ever met, with absolutely no trace of ego and a withering disdain for the stardom his career warranted.

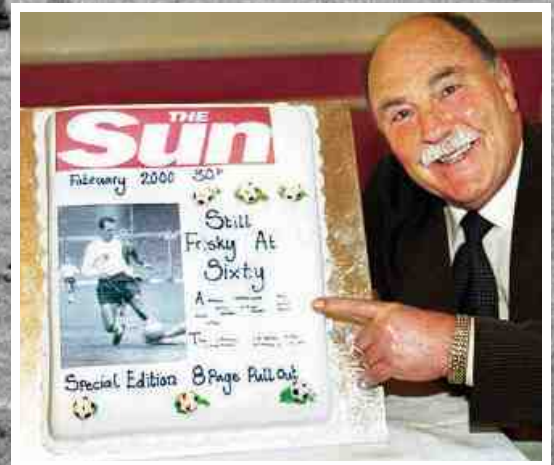
Our Thursday morning chats were the highlight of my week and one of my biggest regrets is that I lost contact with the great man in recent years.

Rest in peace, old chum. Gone but never forgotten.

A true genius with no ego



ON ME WED, SON . . . tying the knot with Irene in 1958



YES, MY SUN . . . special cake as Jimmy's 60th birthday surprise



ROLLERCOASTER . . . (l-r) Greavsie is consoled by Moore after injury wrecked his 1966 World Cup, FA Cup glory with Spurs in 1962 and running out for West Ham with Hurst in 1970

DEBUT GOALS FOR CLUB & COUNTRY



1957 CHELSEA v Tottenham (1)



1959 Peru v ENGLAND (1)



1961 AC Milan v Botafogo (1)



1961 TOTTENHAM v Blackpool (3)



1970 Man City v WEST HAM (2)

HIS ENGLAND HAT-TRICKS

1960	(Oct 19)	v Luxembourg
1961	(Apr 15)	v Scotland
1962	(May 20)	v Peru
1963	(Nov 20)	v Northern Ireland (4)
1964	(Oct 3)	v Northern Ireland
1966	(Jun 29)	v Norway (4)



JIMMY GREAVES 1940-2021

FAME GAME . . . Saint and Greavsie were so well known they got Spitting Image puppets and (below) back on television on Setanta in 2009



PUT IT THERE . . . Jimmy greets Donald Trump, who was roped into bizarre League Cup draw

It's a funny old game

Greavsie a Trump card on the box

JIMMY GREAVES will go down in history as English football's greatest ever goalscorer.

But for those born too late to see him play in the flesh he will be remembered more for his work in another sort of box – the television that is.

In the 80s and early 90s he was one of the country's top football pundits.

And for seven years, with former Liverpool and Scotland midfielder Ian St John, he co-presented Saint and Greavsie, the No1 football show of the day.

The series was so popular, Greavsie's catchphrase 'it's a funny old game' became legendary all over the country. The show became part of English culture.

This was all at a time when football was nowhere as popular or widely broadcast as it is now.

Saint and Greavsie was a must-watch for every football fan.

And while being hugely entertaining and sometimes hilarious – thanks mainly to Greavsie's quick-wit and relaxed style of presenting – it also changed the way the beautiful game in this country was screened on TV.

Just as football is now frequently dubbed part of the entertainment industry, Saint and Greavsie showed programmes about the sport could be entertaining too.

It changed the face of punditry and football programmes and paved the way for Soccer AM and other shows you see on TV now. For those too young to have

By PAUL JIGGINS

watched it, Saint and Greavsie was a Saturday lunchtime show which first hit our screens in 1985.

At that time, the only live matches shown regularly on TV were FA Cup and European finals, along with World Cups.

Football viewers had to get their fix from highlights shows such as Match of the Day and The Big Match.

So fans lapped up Saint and Greavsie when it hit our screens as the ITV equivalent of Football Focus.

What started out as a 30-minute show soon extended to 45 minutes to satisfy viewers' appetites.

With his playing experience, many friends in the sport, forthright opinion and sense of humour, Greaves was a natural in front of the cameras when it came to talking about the game he loved.

The chemistry between him and St John, the Scottish straight man in this double-act, was immaculate.

The pair would review the week's main talking points, show some goals from the week – although not all of them, as not every match had cameras at the time – and preview the weekend's matches, not just in England but Scotland too.

Greaves adopted Hamilton Academical as his Scottish team in what became a long-running source of humour on the show.

When ITV won the rights to show English top-flight matches live in 1988, St John and Greaves were seconded as co-commentators for the channel's new

Sunday flagship show The Match, which paved the way for the wall-to-wall live coverage we have now.

Still, Saint and Greavsie continued to go from strength to strength and its appeal broadened.

After the Hillsborough tragedy in 1989, Greaves was sent to cover the Milan derby in Italy.

There, a special tribute was paid as the match was halted for a minute's silence, beautifully interrupted by fans of both clubs giving an impromptu rendition of You'll Never Walk Alone.

The tears in Greaves' eyes and emotion in his voice showed that, despite becoming a TV star, he was still very much a football man at heart.

Saint, who died in March, and Greavsie went to the United States where they bizarrely conducted a League Cup draw with Donald Trump.

He was then just a billionaire businessman with a dodgy haircut, rather than the President with a dodgy haircut he became.

Saint and Greavsie ran until 1992 when the launch of the Premier League and its new TV deal with Sky meant ITV was starved of footage.

The hosts continued to work on regional ITV channels in what is now the Championship.

Greavsie was a success on the small screen because he was unpretentious and genuine – and viewers in their armchairs across the nation loved him for it.

