

DAILY

The Heart of Britain

Mirror

Monday, September 20, 2021

90p

TEARS FOR ONLY FOOLS STAR BOYCIE



TEAMWORK John Challis and co-star Sue Holderness

SEE PAGES 14&15

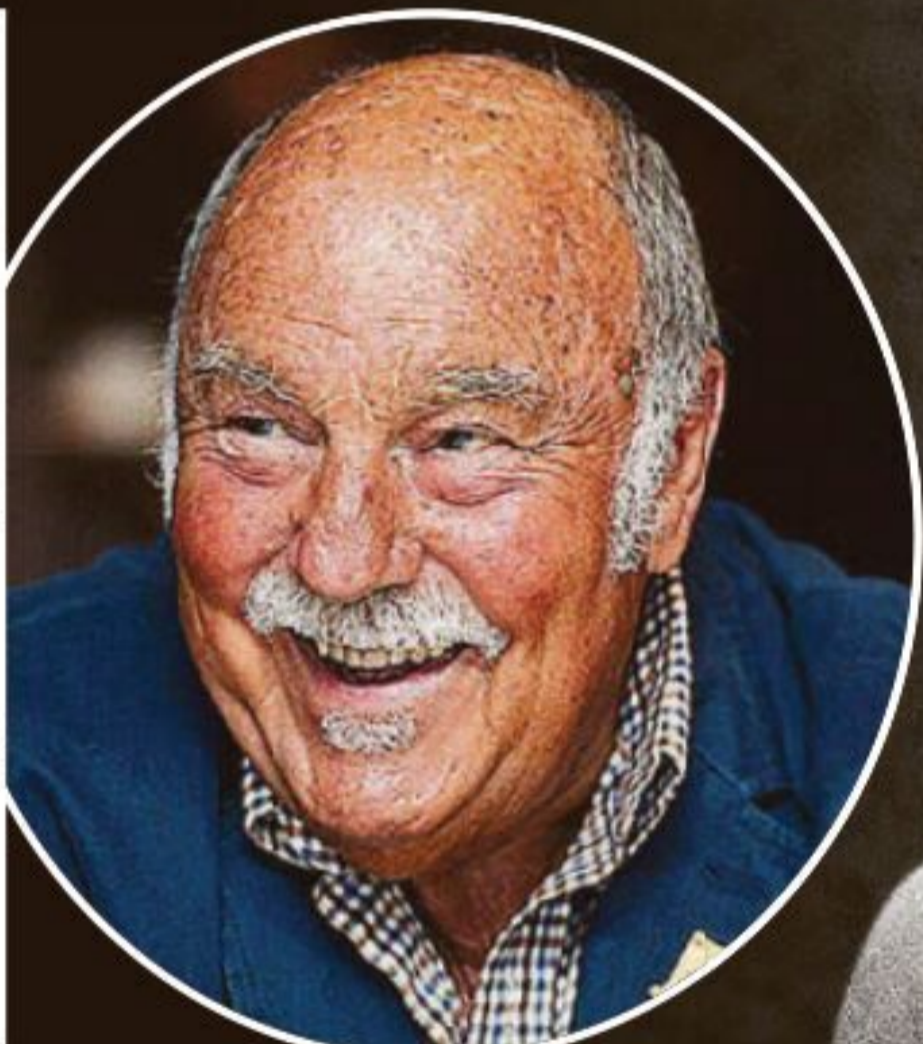
JIMMY GREAVES 1940-2021

One of England's greatest strikers... who cruelly missed out on World Cup final glory. A family man who battled tragedy and illness with beloved wife Irene by his side. A TV star who captured our hearts with his warmth. He was a true legend...



TALENT Jimmy in a pre-season photocall at Spurs in August 1963

MARRIED With Irene at Romford register office, Essex, in 1958



Goodbye Greavsie

FULL STORY: PAGES 2,3,4,5 & SPORT

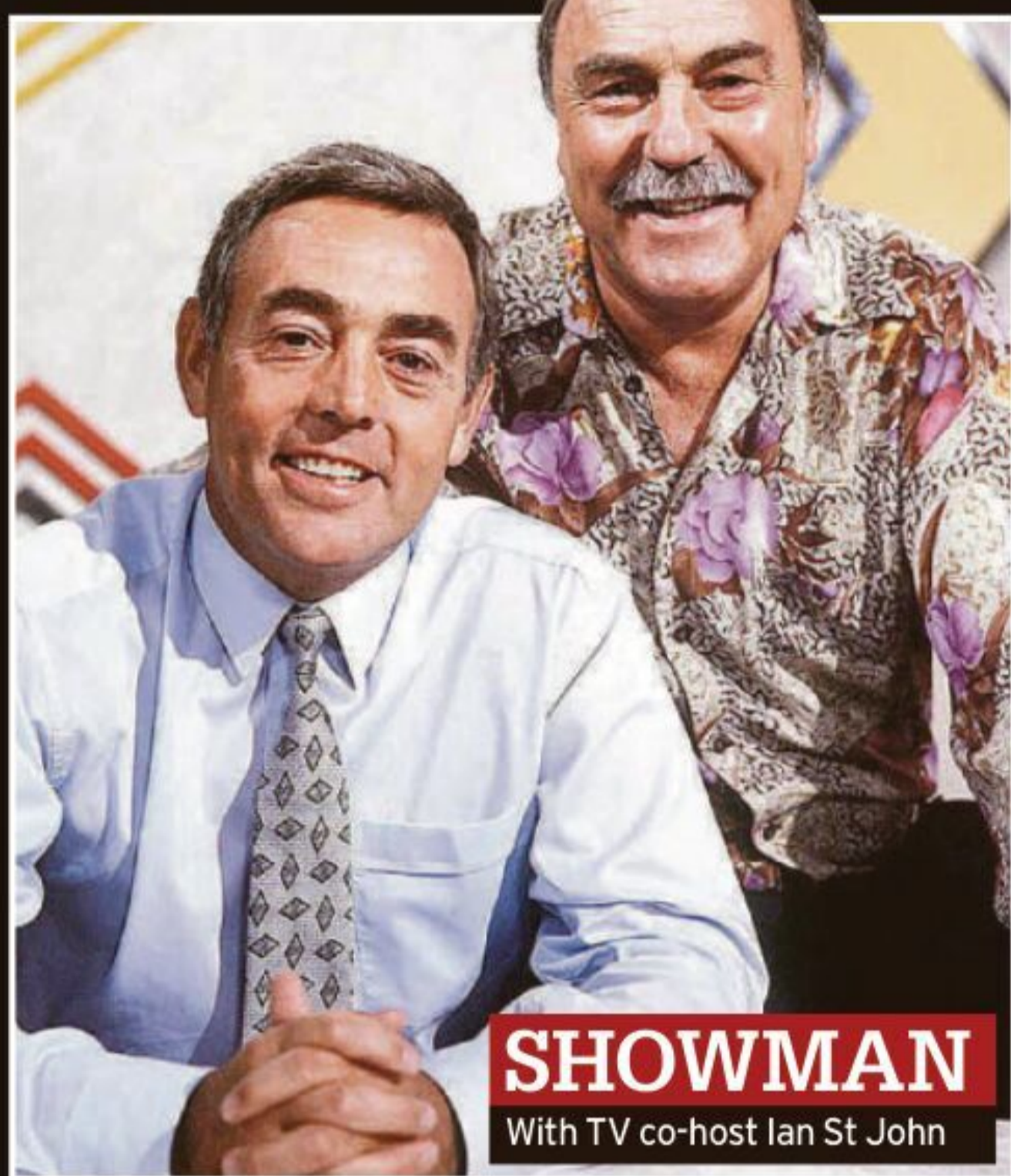
JIMMY GREAVES (1940-2021):

ENGLAND GRIEVES



STRIKER

He's England's fourth highest goal scorer

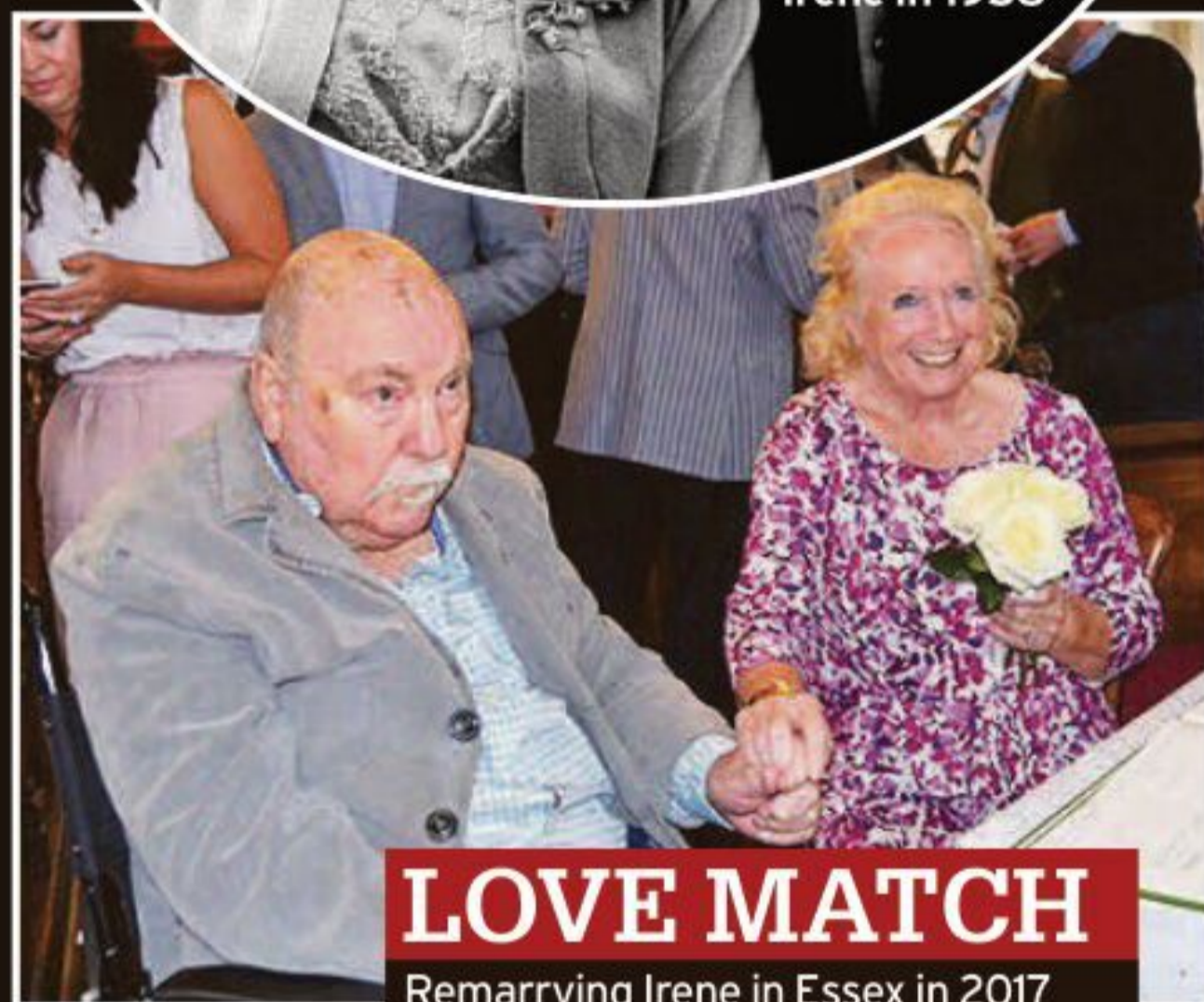


SHOWMAN

With TV co-host Ian St John



WEDDING With Irene in 1958



LOVE MATCH

Remarrying Irene in Essex in 2017

One of our greatest goalscorers spent final day watching cricket final on TV before he passed peacefully in his sleep, says son



SPORTY As a child



FAMILY

With Irene & kids in 1970

BY **ANDY LINES** Chief Reporter and **TOM HOPKINSON**

SOCCKER legend Jimmy Greaves was finally at peace last night after spending his last day surrounded by his loved ones.

The devoted family man, who died aged 81, had been seriously ill since suffering a massive stroke in 2015.

His son Danny, 58, revealed the England hero spent the day watching cricket with his wife, Irene, and their four children, who had stood by him through thick and thin.

He said: "He was a big cricket fan and he watched the T20 Blast finals.

"We had the family - me, my brother, two sisters and mum - with him all the time, and thankfully he went very peacefully in his sleep and without any pain. With all of us, there's that relief that Dad is comfortable now and wherever he is, he's happy."

Greaves's former clubs Tottenham

Hotspur and Chelsea held a minute's applause for him yesterday at their Premier League game in London.

And England announced plans to honour the striker, who scored 44 goals in 57 internationals.

Old clubs West Ham and AC Milan were also playing yesterday and Danny said: "It's amazing. He must have been smiling at that."

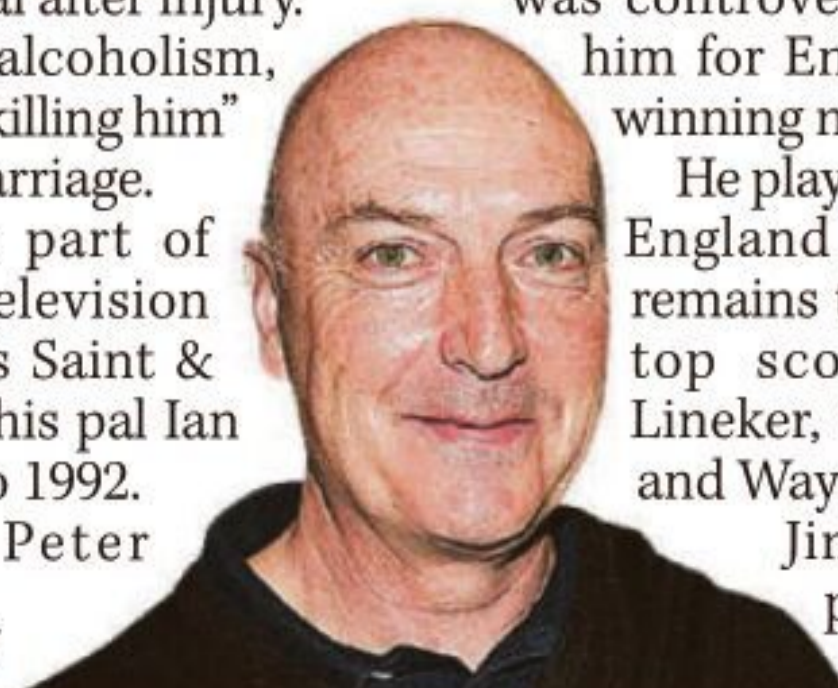
Jimmy suffered his share of heartache, cruelly losing his five-month-old son Jimmy Jr in 1961 and missing the 1966 World Cup final after injury.

He also battled alcoholism, which he said was "killing him" and cost him his marriage.

But he became part of footy's favourite television double act in ITV's Saint & Greavsie alongside his pal Ian St John from 1985 to 1992.

Born James Peter

SUPPORT Son Danny



Greaves in Manor Park, East London, on February 20, 1940, the son of a Tube driver made a scoring debut for Chelsea against Spurs in 1957.

He became the greatest goalscorer of his generation, hitting 447 for his clubs including an unrivalled 266 for Spurs and 132 for Chelsea.

Jimmy married the great love of his life Irene Barden at Romford register office in March 1958. He was badly affected by baby Jimmy's sudden death and haunted after Geoff Hurst was controversially preferred to him for England's World Cup winning match.

He played his final game for England in May 1967 and remains the country's fourth top scorer behind Gary Lineker, Sir Bobby Charlton and Wayne Rooney.

Jimmy recalled: "As parents, you expect

your children to outlive you and when that doesn't happen, you become an empty shell.

"Jimmy was a beautiful boy and his time on this earth was all too brief.

"It kind of puts losing my World Cup winner's medal to Geoff into perspective, doesn't it? But you don't go through life without having some really bad times, and I've had some great times, too.

"Jimmy's death devastated us, it nearly drove us out of our minds. You grieve for the death of any loved one but when it is for your own child no words can describe that grief."

Irene has said: "He was five months old and there was no rhyme or reason about it. It just happened.

"He'd been a healthy baby, 9lb at

birth, and when he died we didn't speak about it - you were told to go home and get on with your lives. There was no counselling."

Jimmy is credited with encouraging thousands of people to tackle their own alcohol abuse after battling the killer disease for decades.

In 2003 he recalled: "I lost the 70s completely. They passed me by.

"I was drunk from 1972 to 1977. I woke up one morning and realised that it was a different world. I'd been living in it, but I hadn't been aware of it."

In 1978 our sister paper the Sunday People ran an interview with Jimmy under the headline: "Drink is killing me".

He told the reporter: "I have to face up to the truth. If I carry on drinking



SHOCK Booze interview

FOOTBALL AND TV LEGEND



FACE OF FOOTIE
Greaves in 2013 before huge stroke

Brilliant in the box and on the box... sporting greats pay tribute to a 'genius'

BY **ANDY LINES**

MATCH of the Day presenter **Gary Lineker** recalled Jimmy Greaves' brilliance on the pitch and on TV by saying he "was at home in the box and on the box".

Lineker said: "Terribly sad news that Jimmy Greaves has died. Quite possibly the greatest striker this country has ever produced. A truly magnificent footballer."

"A charismatic, knowledgeable, witty and warm man. A giant of the sport."

Retired boxer **Frank Bruno** said he was "absolutely devastated". He added the pair spent "loads of time together" and that Jimmy could "make me really laugh constantly".

The Apprentice boss **Lord Sugar** said: "He was a great player and also a great broadcaster. He was a legend, a British legend."

"He was a very down-to-earth bloke, not only very experienced in the football world, he said it as it was and that was really a kick-off to football punditry as we know it these days."

"With Ian St John their banter was fantastic."

David Baddiel said: "RIP the very very great Jimmy Greaves."

Prime Minister **Boris Johnson** said: "Sad to hear the news about Jimmy Greaves."

"He will be remembered as a goalscoring legend

and one of the greats of English football. My thoughts are with his family, friends and fans."

David Lammy, the Labour MP for Tottenham, wrote: "Man so sad Jimmy Greaves has left us."

"What a superb goal scorer, character and all round footballing legend. One of a kind." England

manager **Gareth Southgate** said: "We will pay tribute to his memory at our home match with Hungary at Wembley Stadium next month."

"His place in our history will never be forgotten. Jimmy certainly 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."

Sir Geoff Hurst, who replaced an injured Greaves in the 1966 team and scored a hat-trick in the final triumph over West Germany, said:

"There have been some great players but forwards are judged on goals, and there's nobody who could touch him."

"I am asked is there any animosity between Jimmy and I, because I took his place? But not for one second." He added Jimmy had been a "genius".

Another prolific England striker, **Alan Shearer**, lamented: "RIP Legend. Goals, goals, goals. A remarkable goal scorer."

Tottenham and England captain **Harry Kane** said: 'RIP Jimmy Greaves.

"A true legend and one of the great goal scorers."

"Thoughts are with his family and friends."

Former Three Lions defender **Rio Ferdinand** posted: 'Big loss to the footballing world... sending my condolences to the Greaves family.

"First autobiography I ever read! Inspiration."

TV pundit and former Arsenal star **Ian Wright** said: "The first footballer's name I ever heard from my teacher."

He said his teacher scolded him: "No, Ian! Finish like Jimmy Greaves!"



MEMORIES Bruno with hero, and Hurst

“Possibly the greatest striker this country ever produced”
GARY LINEKER ON THE LATE JIMMY GREAVES

I will kill myself. I'd say I drink a minimum of a bottle or a bottle and a half of vodka and about 12 pints of beer a day."

He added: "I am a very sick man. I am a social drinker who went off the rails."

He and Irene separated and divorced during his fight with alcoholism but reunited after 18 months. They re-married at St John the Baptist church in Danbury, Essex, on September 7, 2017. Irene said recently: "We've always adored each other, without a doubt."

Jimmy was friends with some of the greatest players of all time including Bobby Moore and George Best.

He said of Best: "He was the first true modern footballer - the one every mediocre millionaire of the modern game should get on their knees and thank."

"George was the ultimate showman. His attitude was 'why simply beat a defender when you can torture him and entertain your public too?'"

Jimmy's health had started to

deteriorate in 2012 when he suffered a mild stroke in February of that year whilst having surgery on an artery.

He was still working in May 2015 when he suffered a huge stroke that robbed him of his ability to walk and talk.

Ex-footballer Danny said: "I can only compare him to Bruce Forsyth. I know people might hear that and say, 'Wow', but Bruce Forsyth and Jimmy Greaves started entertaining at a very young age and were still performing and entertaining at the other end of their lives."

"Whether you were into football or weren't into football, he still had an ability to touch you."

"Whether it was helping people who suffered, as Dad had, with alcoholism, helping them to give up the drink."

"Or as a wonderful footballer, or when he did his after-dinner shows, people laughed like they were being entertained by a comedian."

Irene spoke of dealing with his illness,

saying: "I never wanted anyone else. But I look at him now and think he's not the man he was. I've lost my best mate. There was no one like him."

Irene said that during the pandemic, carers came to their home four times a day to look after his basic needs.

She said: "They were fabulous. During lockdown they did the shopping, went to the chemists, doctors, everything."

He leaves Irene, four children Lynn, Mitzi, Danny and Andrew along with 10 grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Irene has said: "People love Jim. He's a thoroughly nice man and he's been incredibly generous. It has been an unconventional life but an amazing one."

Danny borrowed a line from his dad's old West Ham team-mate Brian Dear, saying: "He's probably upstairs having a beer with Mooro."

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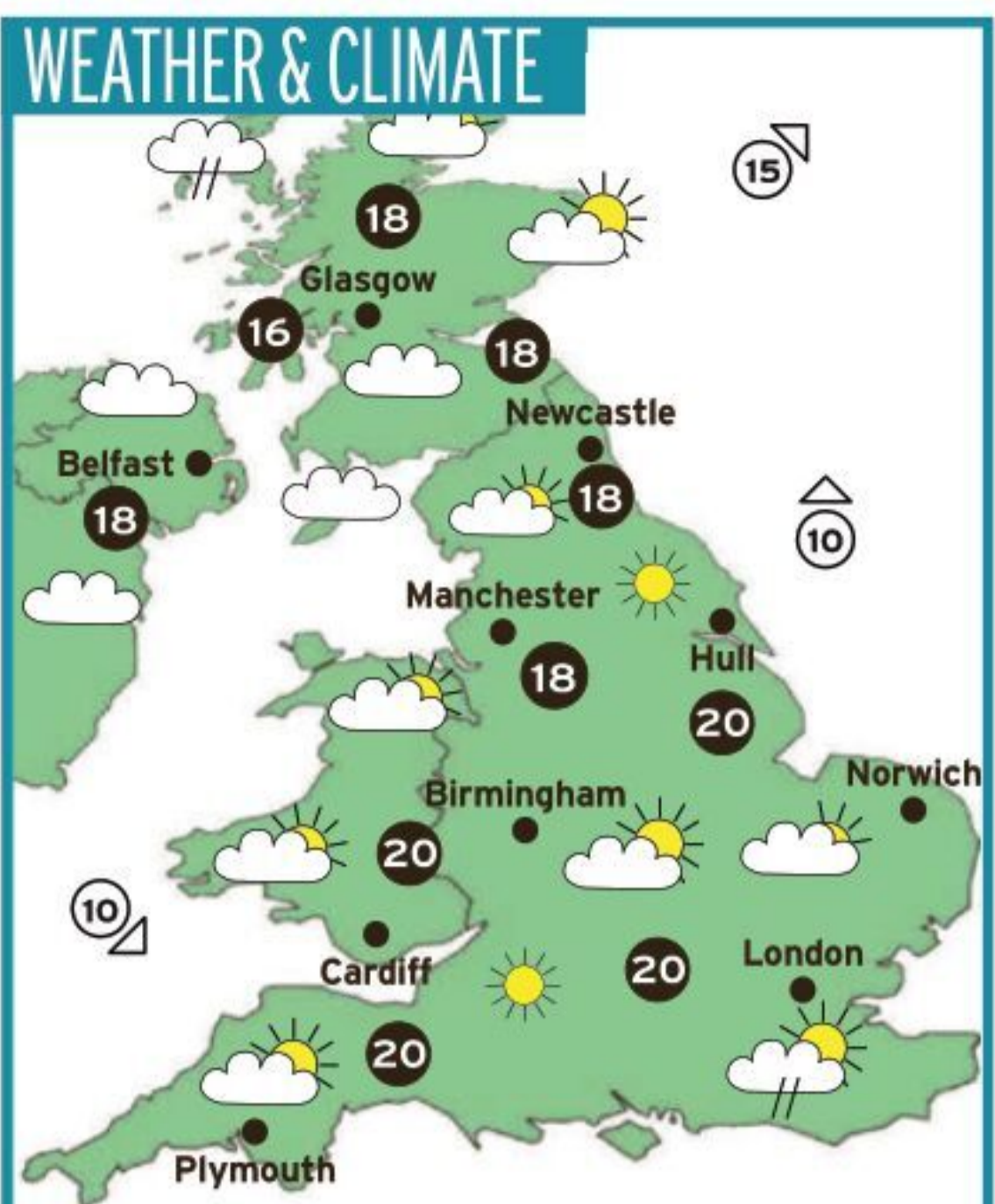
@AndyLines

VOICE OF THE MIRROR: PAGE 8

A LEGEND IN PICTURES: PAGES 4&5



GIANTS OF FOOTBALL
Harry Kane and Jimmy



TODAY Largely dry with sunshine and variable cloud

Any mist and hill fog will lift in the west early leaving bright spells for northern and western England. Largely dry after midday with heavy cloud pushing into the north west. A wet day in East Anglia with persistent rain.

BIGGER PICTURE

Today's historical average high: 17.2
 September 2021 average high so far: 21.4
 September historical average high: 17.6

All averages based on CET Mean Max Temp. Historical info from 1961-1990 (Source: Met Office)

CLIMATE FACT: The UK has been on average 6% wetter over the last 30 years (1991-2020) than the preceding 30 years (1961-1990) (Source: Met office)

MONDAY PEOPLE'S POSTCODE LOTTERY

£1,000 for every ticket in these winning postcodes

BA4 5QB BN27 4DA CV47 0LB SA4 3XB
 BB1 5QT CF38 1UJ DG3 4HH TA11 7BQ
 BB12 8HN CF72 8JE EX1 3SB TR4 8BQ
 BB18 6NA CT7 0NR LL30 1PS WA4 4QG
 BN21 1XF CT11 7DU PL1 3EZ WA4 3LH

postcodelottery.co.uk/results BeGambleAware.org

10 MIN CROSSWORD

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| 6 | 7 | 8 | | |
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Flora and fauna (8)
 - 6 National Executive Committee (1,1,1)
 - 7 Ben, comedian (5)
 - 9 Relating to aircraft (4)
 - 11 Miseries (4)
 - 12 Probabilities (4)
 - 14 Italian wine region (4)
 - 16 Assemblage (5)
 - 18 Extend (3)
 - 19 Mild mental disorder (8)
- DOWN**
- 1 Sum won (8)
 - 2 In the vicinity (5)
 - 3 Ogle (4)
 - 4 Healthy (3)
 - 5 Teeth, informally (8)
 - 8 Plunder (4)
 - 10 Old Testament twin (4)
 - 13 Food regimes (5)
 - 15 Incentive (4)
 - 17 Be in debt (3)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Bigwig, 5 Ugli, 6 Cover-ups, 11 Step on it, 14 Alga, 15 Nearby. Down: 1 Brick, 2 Wide, 3 Guru, 4 Plus, 7 Vet, 8 Rip, 9 Pen, 10 Story, 11 Sell, 12 Elan, 13 Okra.

THE LOTTERY

SATURDAY'S LOTTO: 19, 32, 44, 45, 52, 53
 Bonus: 12. Rolldown of £15m jackpot.

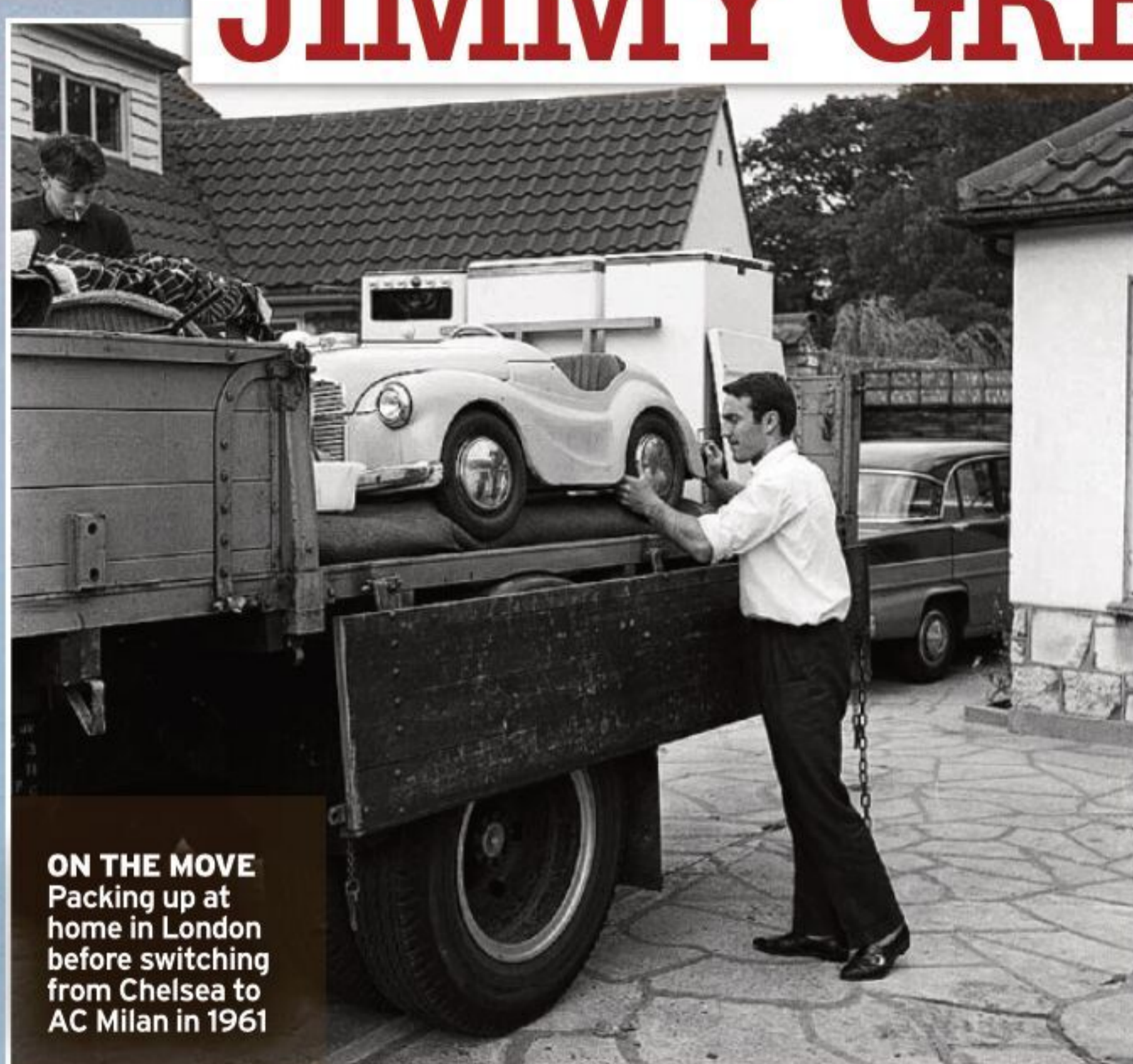
THUNDERBALL: 7, 13, 17, 19, 35
 T'ball: 11. No winner of £500k top prize.

HEALTH LOTTERY: 15, 16, 19, 23, 49 Bonus: 9.

FRIDAY'S EUROMILLIONS: 5, 7, 8, 10, 34
 Lucky Stars: 1 & 9. No winner of £33.9m jackpot.

THURSDAY'S SET FOR LIFE: 13, 15, 23, 37, 44
 Life Ball: 9. No winner of £10k a month for 30yrs.

JIMMY GREAVES (1940)



ON THE MOVE
 Packing up at home in London before switching from Chelsea to AC Milan in 1961



HEIR WE GO
 Wife Irene and son Danny after home birth in London 1963



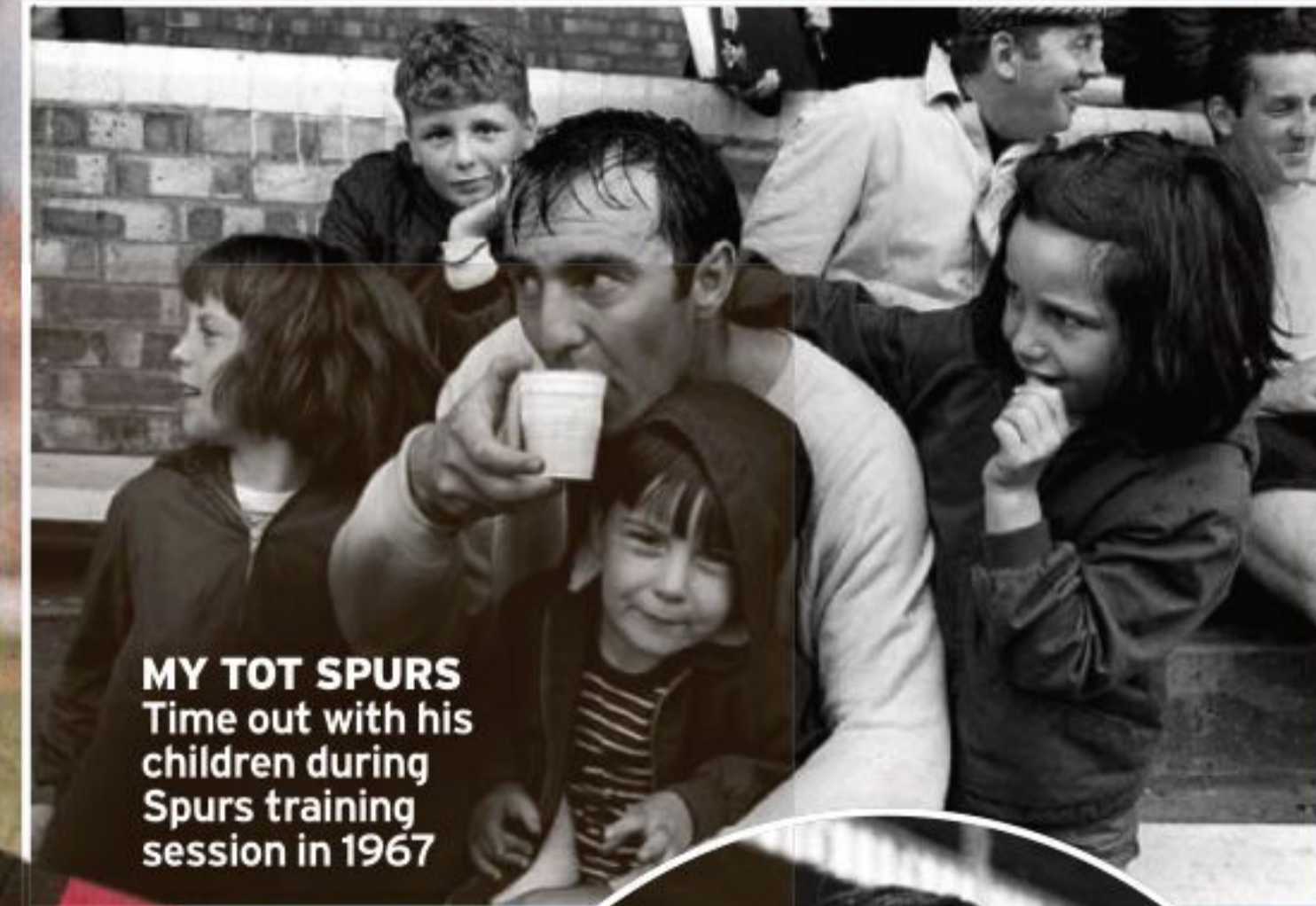
MIXED EMOTIONS
 Greaves next to the England bench during 1966 World Cup final



MEN OF THE MOMENT
 Giving heading advice to comic Norman Wisdom in summer 1966



PLAYING FOR ROVERS
 He grabs stray dog on the pitch during 1962 World Cup Brazil game in Chile



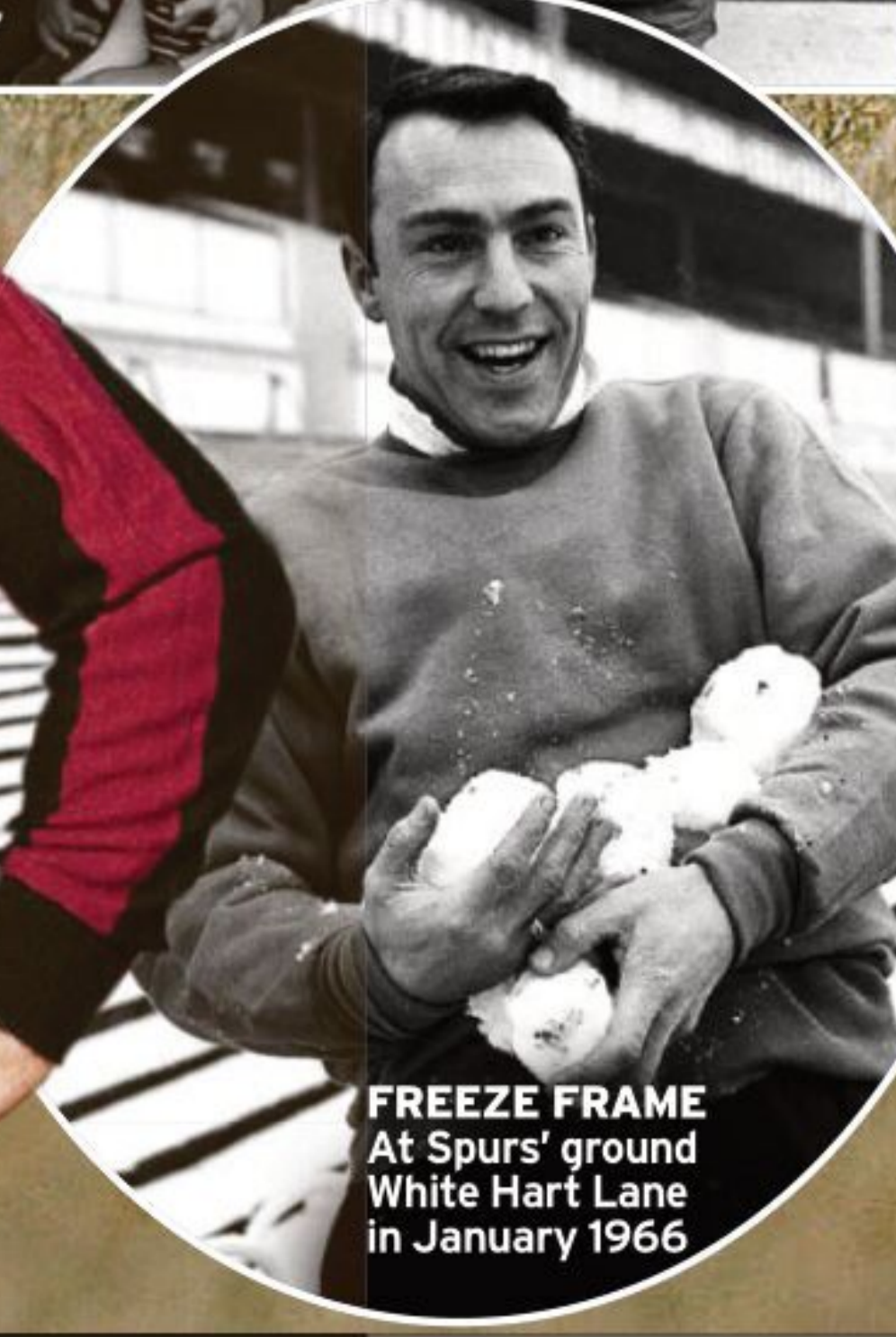
MY TOT SPURS
 Time out with his children during Spurs training session in 1967



STRIKE FORCE
 With Liverpool's Roger Hunt at Hendon Hall hotel in North London in 1966



PASTA BALL
 Posing after he signed for AC Milan in 1961

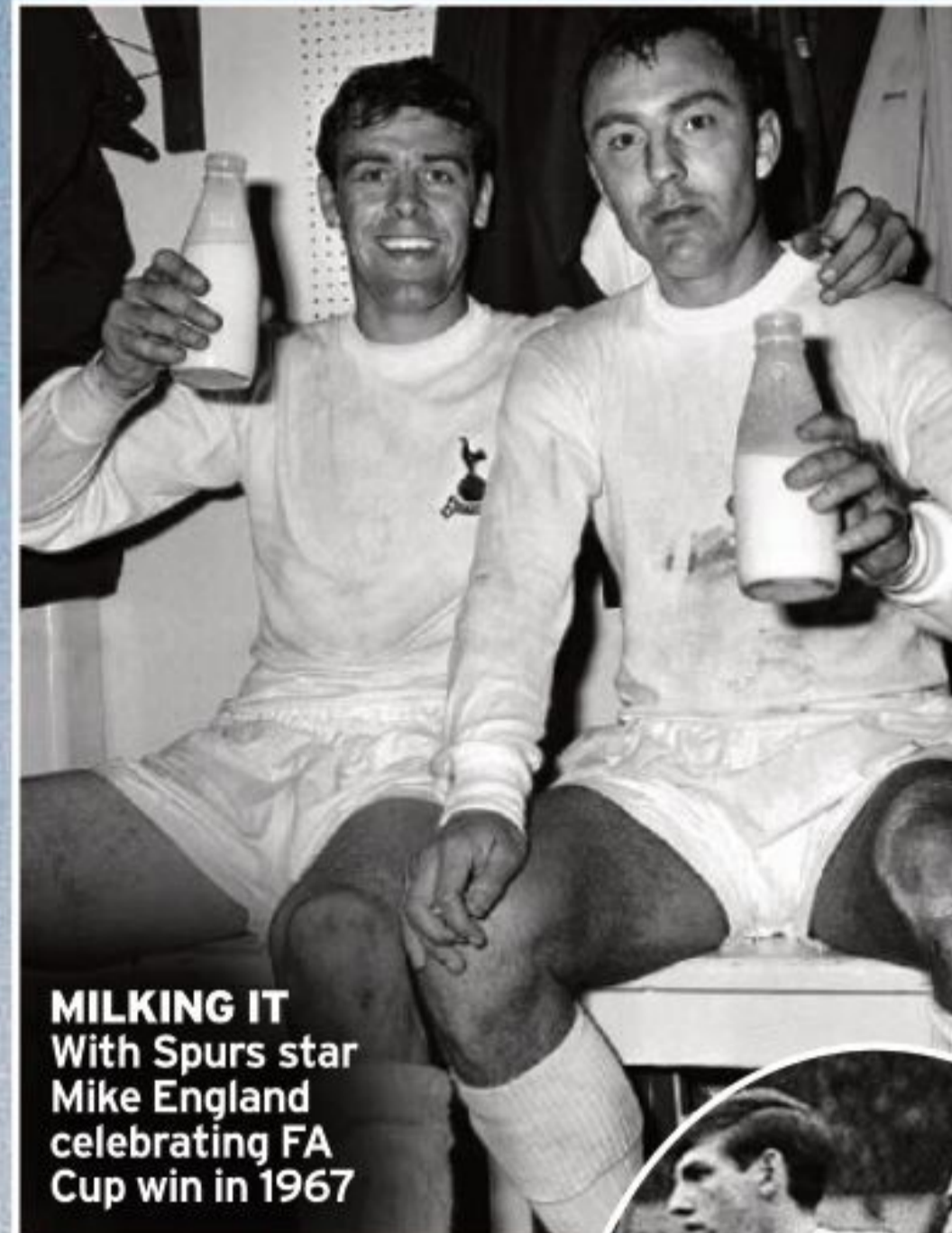


FREEZE FRAME
 At Spurs' ground White Hart Lane in January 1966

-2021): A LEGEND IN PICTURES



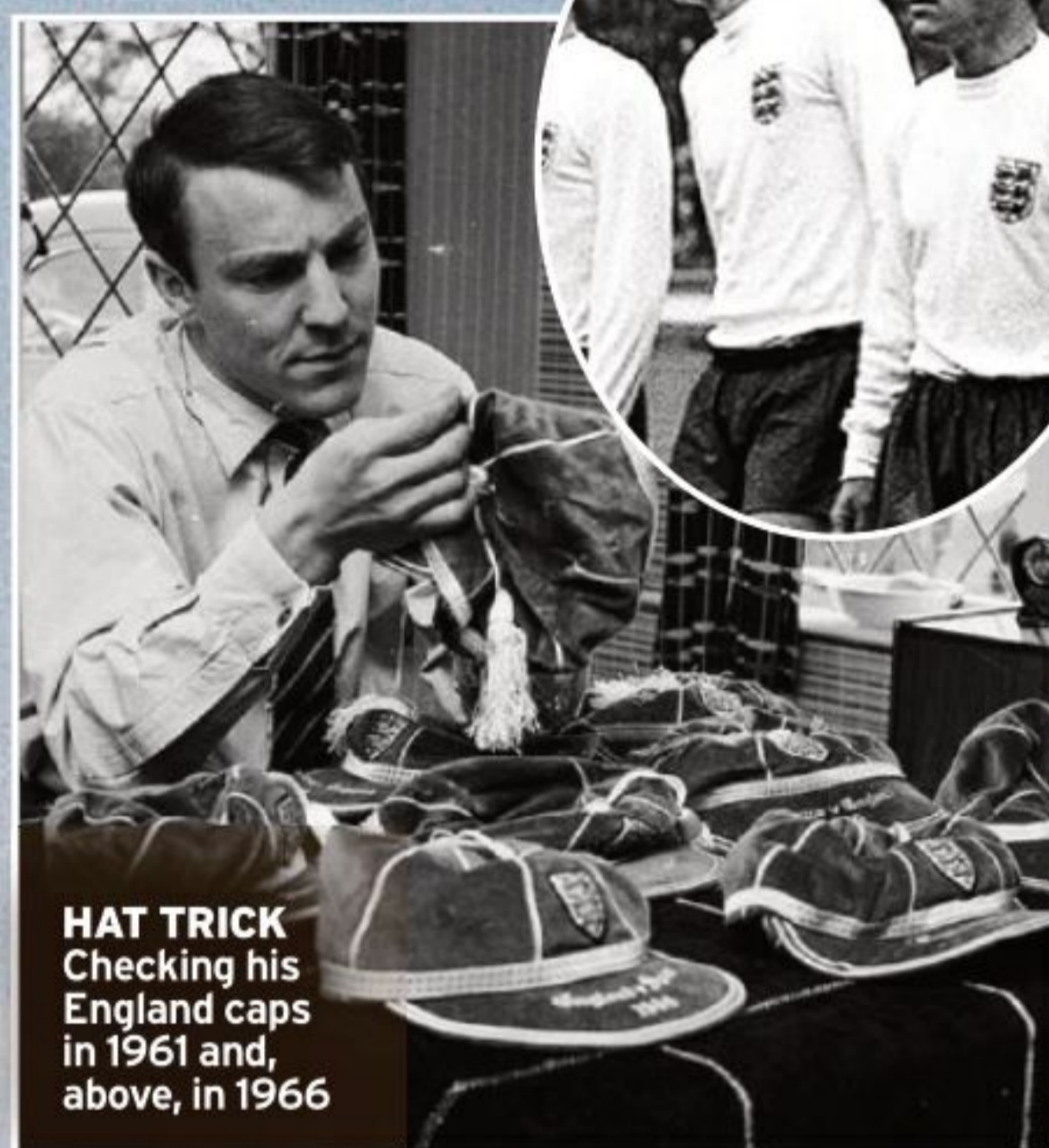
TRUE BLUE
Iconic Chelsea home kit in 1957



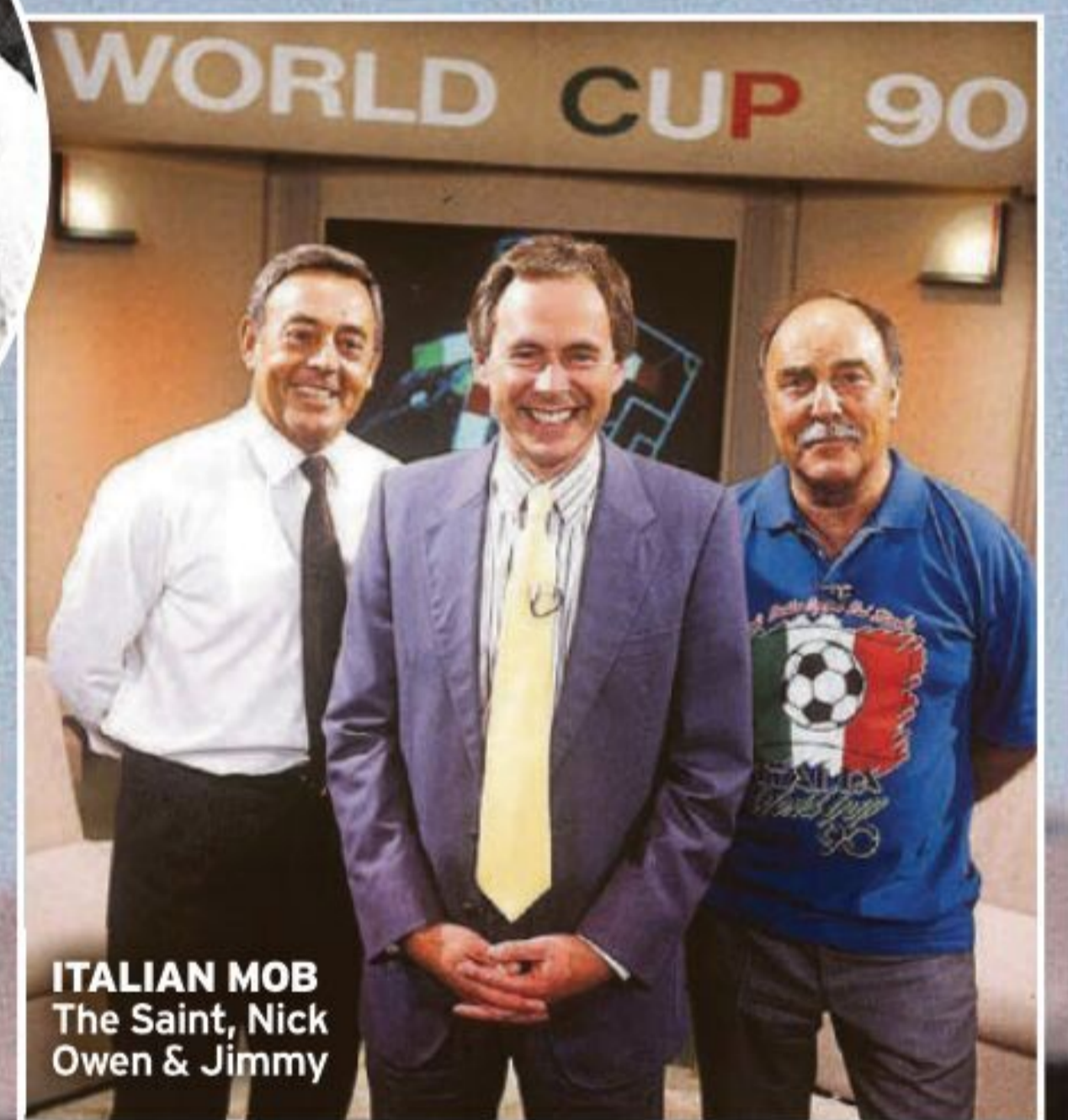
MILKING IT
With Spurs star Mike England celebrating FA Cup win in 1967



JOKERS WILD
Gazza backs pal in 2011 meet-up



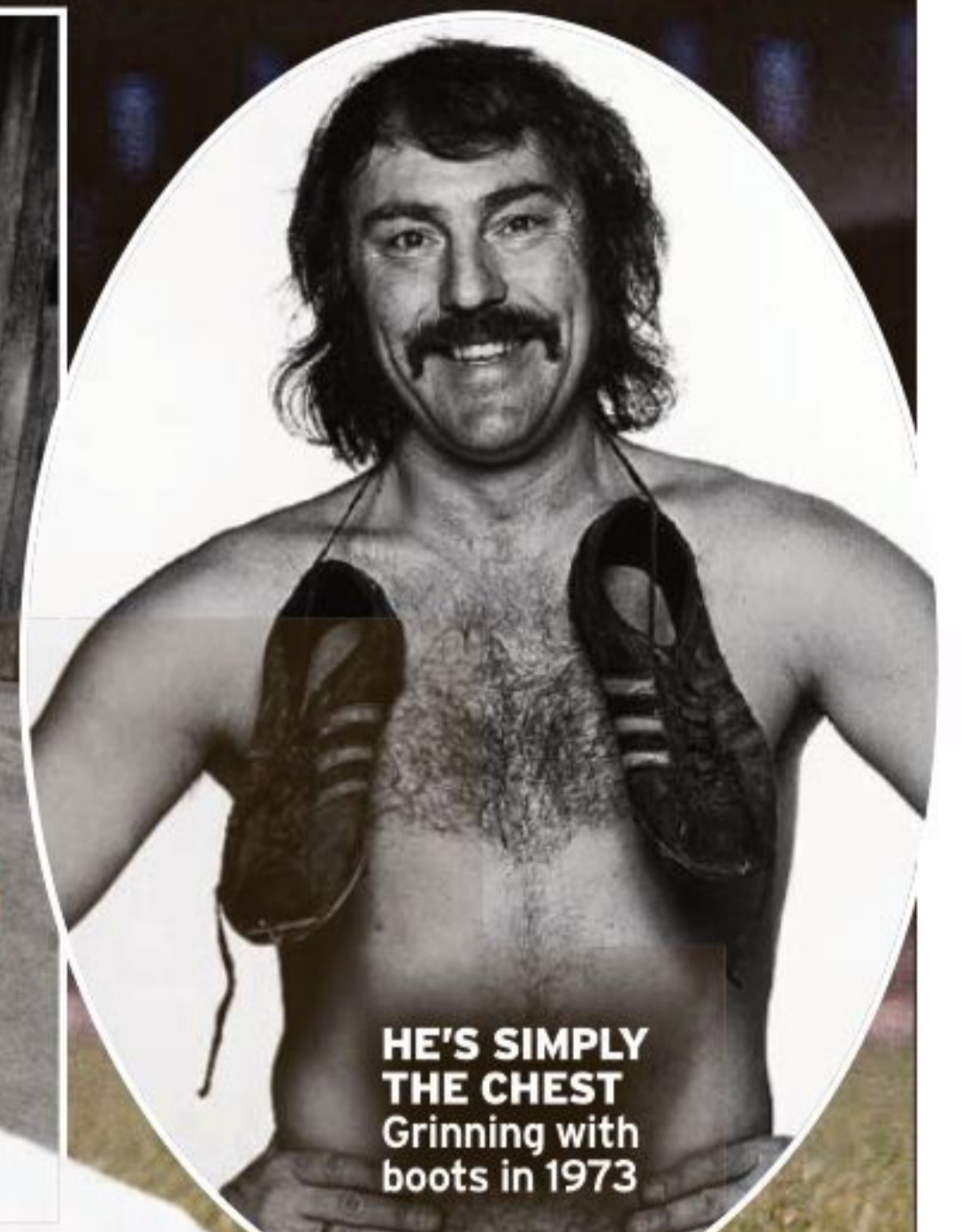
HAT TRICK
Checking his England caps in 1961 and, above, in 1966



ITALIAN MOB
The Saint, Nick Owen & Jimmy



RIDE AND JOY
Son Andrew 1970



HE'S SIMPLY THE CHEST
Grinning with boots in 1973



PUPPET LOVE
With Ian St John and Spitting Image lookalikes in 1986



BITE CLUB
At Downing St with fellow 1966 winner Norman Hunter & medals in June 2009



WHITE HOT
1967 shot in Spurs finery

CITY SIGNING Bowler & brolly



PREMIER LEAGUE
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR STADIUM



LEGEND JIMMY THE GREATEST

FROM BACK PAGE

at his numbers and one day go on to break those numbers would be incredible."

Greaves won two FA Cups and a Cup Winners' Cup with Spurs, scored 132 times in 169 appearances for Chelsea, while his Three Lions haul included six hat-tricks.

The Tottenham and Chelsea players wore black armbands and former Spurs stars lined the pitch for a minute's applause before kick-off yesterday.

Among them was Gary Mabbutt, who said: "Jimmy was a legend at Spurs but also a legend at Chelsea and as far as English football is concerned, he's one of the greatest scorers of all time.

"I think people talk about legends sometimes very loosely - with Jimmy, I think you can use that word consistently because he was that wherever he played. His sublime goalscoring ability, his finishing and the character that he was. It's a very, very sad day."

West Ham, another of his former clubs, had a minute's applause before their game with Manchester United, as did Brighton and Leicester City.

Greaves' record of 357 goals in the English top flight still stands. Former team-mate Alan Mullery (below) said: "He was a wonderful, wonderful footballer, the best goalscorer to ever play."

Arsenal legend Ian Wright tweeted: "The first footballer's name I ever heard from my teacher. 'No Ian! Finish like Jimmy Greaves!' May he rest in peace."



A TRUE INSPIRATION ...A HERO ON AND OFF THE PITCH

BY JOHN CROSS
Chief Football Writer
@johncrossmirror

JIMMY GREAVES was the greatest goalscorer England ever produced.

But there are many other facets to one of football's all-time greats.

Arguably his biggest achievement was the way he battled alcoholism and overcame his demons.

We should never forget that millions in this country see footballers as role models.

Last year, BT Sport made a brilliant documentary, 'Greavsie', which charted his rise, fall from grace as booze blighted the end of his career, and rebirth as a national icon.

You could not fail to have been moved by his life. If he didn't save thousands of lives, then at the very least he gave hope to many.

An inspiration, not just for alcoholics, but for the families of alcoholics. He was a hero on and off the pitch.

And for that reason, Greaves will be remembered as a national treasure, whose achievements transcended sport.

Greaves remains the leading scorer in English top-flight history with 357 goals in 516 games.

He was a natural finisher (celebrating with Tottenham team-mates Jimmy Robertson and Dave Mackay, above).

Fourth in England's all-time list, even if injury meant he lost his place in the 1966 World Cup, and was not

recalled for the final. It is also a measure of the man that he was held in such affection not just by supporters of Spurs, Chelsea and West Ham, but all fans (signing autographs, below).

He was not just a poacher, but a scorer of spectacular goals. Even in an era of characters and stars, Greaves stood out. And he scored incredible goals in an era when TV cameras were not always in the ground.

One against Leicester when he dribbled from his own half, beat four defenders and then a young Peter Shilton, is the stuff of legend.

The greatest goal you never saw.

After retirement, Greaves was a TV star alongside Ian St John in football's most popular show of the 1980s and early '90s.

Saint & Greavsie was essential viewing, Greaves as quick with his wisecracks as he was on the pitch.

During a TV blackout, they took West Ham striker Frank McAvennie, then the top-flight's top scorer, on a tour of London to see if anyone recognised him. Few did.

Point made: football needs TV. A deal was brokered soon after.

They even got Donald Trump to do the draw for the fifth round of the Rumbelows Cup from Trump Tower in the US.

Greavsie told him: "I haven't seen a boardroom like this since I was at Doug Ellis's at Aston Villa."

CRUISE

thoughts into words. "When defenders like me were running through the ground," said Perryman, "Jimmy floated over it. What a player."

As the resulting applause from the Chelsea fans in the away end ebbed, Mabbutt followed up, hailing Greaves as "one of the greatest goalscorers this country has ever seen".

What a pity just one team turned up on the day with a performance worthy of the great man.

Greaves would have slotted seamlessly into Thomas Tuchel's Blues side in his pomp.

He'd have filled his boots and his trophy cabinet with the protection of today's

referees and the platform provided by the European champions' defensive strength.

Greaves quite possibly would have been a little bit Harry Kane had he been leading the line in this Spurs team. Frustrated that, for all his energy, his team-mates continue shooting themselves in the foot.

At times, this was brutal to watch. Tuchel, more fascinated than anything else by Tottenham's initial fighting spirit, sent on N'Golo Kante at half-time for Mason Mount.

Within four minutes, Thiago Silva had headed in from Marcos Alonso's corner. Three minutes later, Eric Dier was forced to clear off the line from

Alonso's close-range effort. Kante hit a deflected second five minutes after that and the Spurs walls came tumbling down. As Chelsea tightened their grip, the hosts alarmingly ran out of steam.

Hugo Lloris (left) kept out more headers, this time from Silva and Lukaku, before Antonio Rudiger drove the final nail into the coffin, deep into injury time.

Spurs fans booed their demoralised side off the pitch, Chelsea fans revelled in the humiliation.

Tottenham are a team crying out for Greavsie's class. Unfortunately, there are too few others anywhere near his genius.

WE KANTE BE SO SLOPPY AGAIN

BY DARREN LEWIS

THOMAS TUCHEL branded his Chelsea team "sloppy" despite their second-half demolition of Tottenham to go joint top of the table.

The Chelsea boss (above) sent on N'Golo Kante at half-time and said: "It was too sloppy. Not sharp enough. We forgot to bring the right attitude and energy to this game."

"We allowed them too many chances. N'Golo is the best player to bring on because he can change any momentum."

Dele Alli, who took the blame for Chelsea's first goal from Thiago Silva, said: "It could have gone either way in the first half. But if you don't punish them, you can be punished, and that is what happened today."



jinks in and out. Jimmy was like that! They'd fly out at him, but he'd tap the ball in the net.

» **GLENN HODDLE** A true legend of the game, love and thoughts to all of Jimmy's family. RIP.

MICKY HAZARD Heaven has gained our hero and what a Spurs team we have up there. Jimmy, you



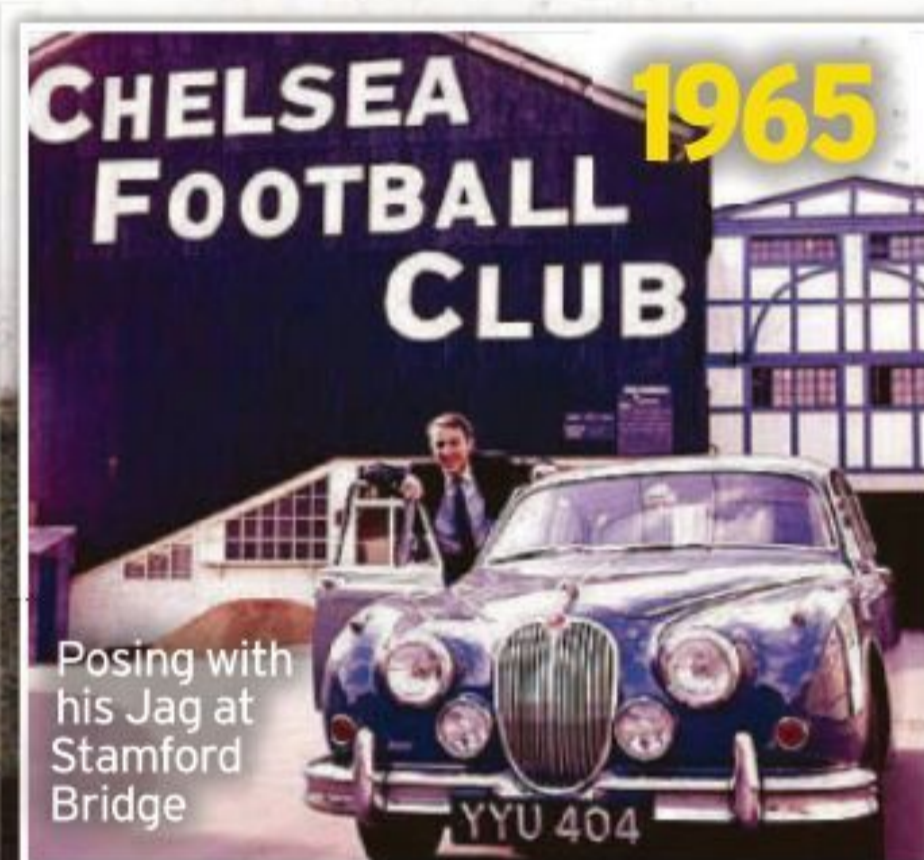
are simply the greatest Spur ever. **ENGLAND TEAM** All of our thoughts are with his family, friends,

and former clubs. **OSSIE ARDILES** RIP Jimmy. He epitomises what Spurs is: 'To dare is to do'.



R.I.P. GREAVSIE (1940-2021)

The most natural scorer England has era of heavy pitches and ferocious skipped around defenders like they boots and he was wearing a pair of



BY MIKE WALTERS
@MikeWaltersMGM

JIMMY GREAVES was England's crown jewel who was left standing at the gates of glory when football came home.

As the final whistle sounded at the 1966 World Cup final, and they thought it was all over bar the Queen handing over the holy grail to Three Lions captain Bobby Moore, Greaves was the loneliest man at Wembley.

Amid the outpouring of jubilation on the England bench, the supreme goalscorer wore the look of a genius jilted by Jules Rimet.

Greaves started the tournament as manager Sir Alf Ramsey's first-choice striker until a robust challenge from France midfielder Joseph Bonnel in the final group match left him with a gash in his shin requiring 14 stitches. His replacement, Geoff Hurst, headed the winner in the brutal quarter-final against Argentina where Ramsey denounced the South Americans as "animals", and retained his place.

As Hurst went on to score a hat-trick in the final, still a unique feat 55 years later, Greaves was like the fifth Beatle – an essential accessory to greatness, but stuck in the background when England made it to No.1 in the charts.

How fitting that, two years earlier in 1964 – so the story goes – at the height of Beatlemania, John Lennon spotted Greaves in the audience at a Fab Four gig.

Recognising genius amid the hysteria, Lennon paused to announce: "We've real royalty in here tonight."

But nothing would ever compensate crestfallen Greaves when Ramsey's Boys of '66 wore

the crown and he missed out on the coronation. "I had missed out on the match of a lifetime, and it hurt," he admitted later.

Although the wider world did not know it at the time, the cruelty of circumstance began his slide into alcoholism, an accomplice which wiped the 1970s from his memory.

Jimmy Greaves, who has died aged 81, was the greatest goalscorer England ever produced.

No disrespect to Wayne Rooney, Gary Lineker, Bobby Charlton or Harry Kane, but Greaves scored 44 goals in 57 caps – and none of them was against San Marino, Andorra, Eskimos, Teletubbies or Smurfs.

It will forever remain a stain on the game, and the archaic

made goalscoring look easy. In an era of heavy pitches and ferocious tackles, he would leave markers behind and skip round the goalkeeper as if they were all weighed down by hobnail boots and he was in dancing shoes.

He scored six international hat-tricks, still an England record – one of them in the 9-3 humiliation of Scotland at Wembley in 1961, the year Tottenham won the Double.

The rout reduced Scotland keeper Frank Haffey to the butt of comedians' jokes. Q: "What's the time?" A: "Nine past Haffey."

Greaves, blessed with an East Ender's innate humour and blissful comic timing, would become a sultan of punchlines himself, a perfect foil for chortling sidekick Ian St John on ITV's brilliant antidote to starch-collared, po-faced football punditry, Saint and Greavsie.

He later joined Paul Gascoigne for a stand-up tour. Gazza was a hoot, but dear old Greavsie brought the house down.

Dusting down his joke book, he revealed his TV work had dried up after a short-lived alliance with Sky.

"They didn't let me go, I left them," he said. "It was freezing putting up those satellite dishes in winter."

He filled The Shelf at White Hart Lane, he filled his boots and he filled our lives with joy as a footballer, pundit and comedian.

But above all, Jimmy Greaves was the genius who missed out when immortality came calling in 1966.

And up there among the celestial constellations, somebody's going to have a bloody hard job marking the brightest star.

'I had missed out on the match of a lifetime and it hurt'



honours system, that he was never knighted. It even took 43 years for him to be awarded a World Cup winner's medal as only the XI who conquered West Germany in the final were eligible to receive one.

He and other squad members and backroom staff were finally presented with medals at a Downing Street reception in 2009 after FIFA amended the rules.

Greaves later sold his for £44,000 at auction, but his aura as the ultimate finisher never deserted him.

He was incomparable – the best of the best – because he

JIMMY BY NUMBERS

114 goals scored for the youth team after signing for Chelsea in 1956

17 Greaves' age when he made his first-team debut for Chelsea, scoring in a 1-1 draw with... Tottenham

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

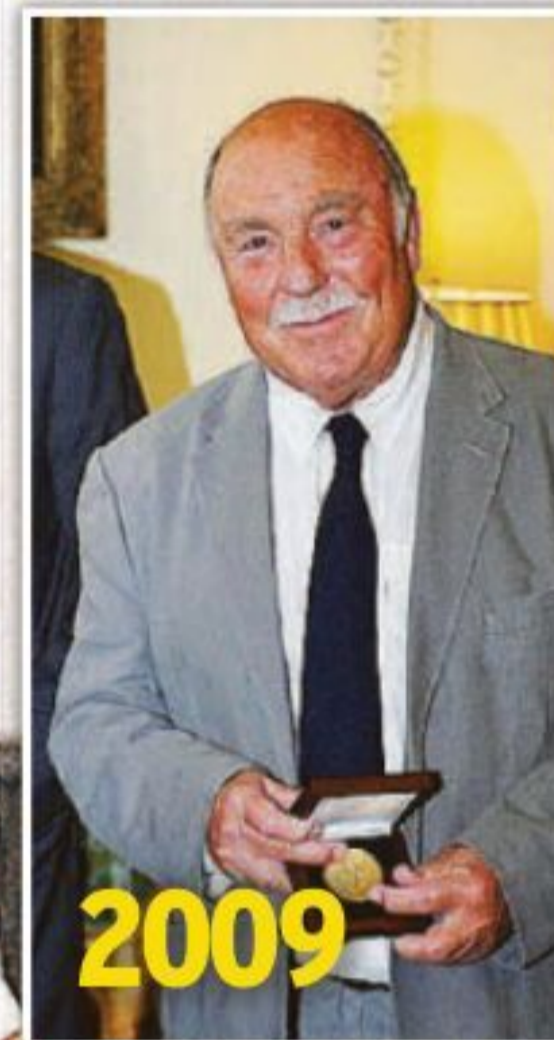
99,999 the fee in pounds paid by Tottenham to sign Greaves from AC Milan in 1961



ever had... in an tackles, Jimmy had hobnail dance shoes



He filled The Shelf at White Hart Lane, he filled his boots and he filled our lives with joy as a footballer, pundit and comedian



15 minutes without a goal was a drought

BY **ANDY DUNN**
Chief Sports Writer
@andydunnmirror



IT is not worth getting into a lather about because the great man himself never did.

But the sad passing of Jimmy Greaves is a timely reminder that football is a grand, old game... and not the brainchild of a cabal of commercial brains and TV execs.

There was brilliance before the Premier League, thrills when three o'clock kick-offs were standard, when defenders were allowed to dish out the rough stuff.

When excellence and achievements are spoken about only within the parameters of the Premier League's existence, it is hardly crime of the century.

But it does a disservice to the feats of so many wonderful players down the years.

And to reflect on Greaves' deeds is to remember that statistics are not a post-1992 phenomenon.

Ask the modern generation who is the most prolific striker in the history of English club football and many would give Alan Shearer (right) as the answer.



And former Blackburn and Newcastle centre-forward Shearer can rightly be proud of his 260 Premier League goals. But Greaves scored 357 times in the top division.

The numbers are truly remarkable. Forty-four goals in 57 England appearances.

Legend has it that Greaves once said this: "I once went through a goal drought... it was the worst 15 minutes of my career."

Apocryphal or not, it summed up the man. A total of 466 goals in 661 club matches. Remarkable.

The figures and the footage do not lie - Greaves, who lit up the 60s at Tottenham Hotspur, was as natural a scorer as the game has ever seen.

Or will see. But, inevitably, times such as these prompt arguments about how footballers of certain eras would cope with the game in other eras.

They are spurious arguments. You can only be the best of YOUR time and Greaves was the best of HIS time.

But what is important is that his time is never forgotten.

THE GREATEST EVER...

JIMMY GREAVES ENGLAND STATS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Games | 57 |
| Minutes | 5130 |
| Goals | 44 |
| Mins/Goal | 117 |
| Won | 30 |
| Drew | 13 |
| Lost | 14 |
| Most goals: versus Northern Ireland | 10 |

TOP-FLIGHT SCORERS (1888 to present day)

| Goals | Apps |
|----------------|---------|
| Jimmy Greaves | 357 516 |
| Steve Bloomer | 314 536 |
| Dixie Dean | 310 362 |
| Gordon Hodgson | 287 456 |
| Alan Shearer | 283 559 |
| Nat Lofthouse | 253 452 |
| Ian Rush | 233 514 |
| David Herd | 223 412 |

TOP FIVE SPURS GOALSCORERS

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Jimmy Greaves | 266 goals from 379 apps |
| Harry Kane | 223 goals from 342 apps |
| Bobby Smith | 208 goals from 317 apps |
| Martin Chivers | 174 goals from 367 apps |



GREAVSIE FACTFILE

DATE OF BIRTH
February 20 1940, London

CLUBS
CHELSEA 1957-61
169 apps 132 goals
AC MILAN 1961
14 apps 9 goals
TOTTENHAM 1961-70
379 apps 266 goals
WEST HAM 1970-71
40 apps 13 goals
INTERNATIONAL
England 1959-67

57 apps 44 goals

HONOURS FOR CLUB:
FA Cup 1962, 1967
European Cup Winners Cup 1963
Division One top scorer six times (a record)
37 league goals in 1962/63 (a Tottenham record)

FOR COUNTRY
Winning the World Cup, 1966

132 goals for Chelsea in 169 games

44 goals scored for England in 57 matches .. he is still fourth on the all-time list behind Wayne Rooney (53), Bobby Charlton (49) and Gary Lineker (48)

6 hat-tricks scored for England still stands as a record today

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

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

**» FAREWELL TO GREAVSIE
FORMER CLUBS MOURN THE
PASSING OF A TRUE GENIUS**



**Incredible... a legend
for club and country**

KANE LEADS THE TRIBUTES

BY **DARREN LEWIS**

HARRY KANE led an avalanche of tributes as football waved goodbye to Jimmy Greaves.

Tottenham and England star Kane said: "Jimmy was an incredible player and goalscorer and a legend for club and country. It's

frightening really how good a player he was."

Greaves, who died yesterday aged 81, scored a club record 266 goals for Spurs, and 44 for England in 57 appearances. Kane added: "For someone like me to look

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THE NATURAL: PAGES 46, 47

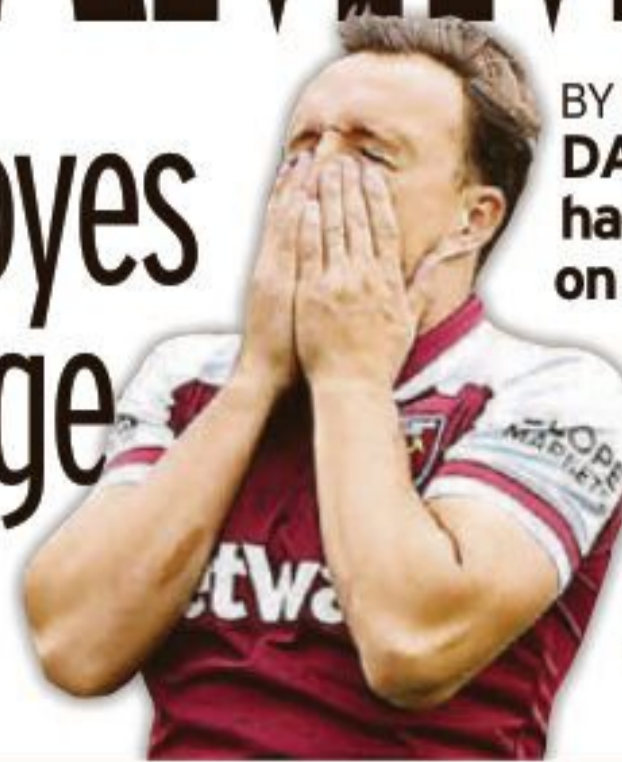
SPURS 0 CHELSEA 3 PAGES 44 & 45

» WEST HAM 1 MANCHESTER UNITED 2

**...AND IT WAS A FUNNY
OLD GAME AT HAMMERS**



Lingard lands Hammer blow as Moyes defends sub Noble missing stoppage time penalty with his **FIRST** kick



BY **MIKE WALTERS**

DAVID MOYES insisted he had no regrets about sending on stone-cold Mark Noble to miss the stoppage-time penalty that cost West Ham a point.

Skipper Noble (left) had not failed to score from the spot since December 2016,

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Mirror Football
GOODBYE TO THE GREATEST
INSIDE YOUR GREAT FOOTBALL PULLOUT
BRIGHTON 2 LEICESTER 1

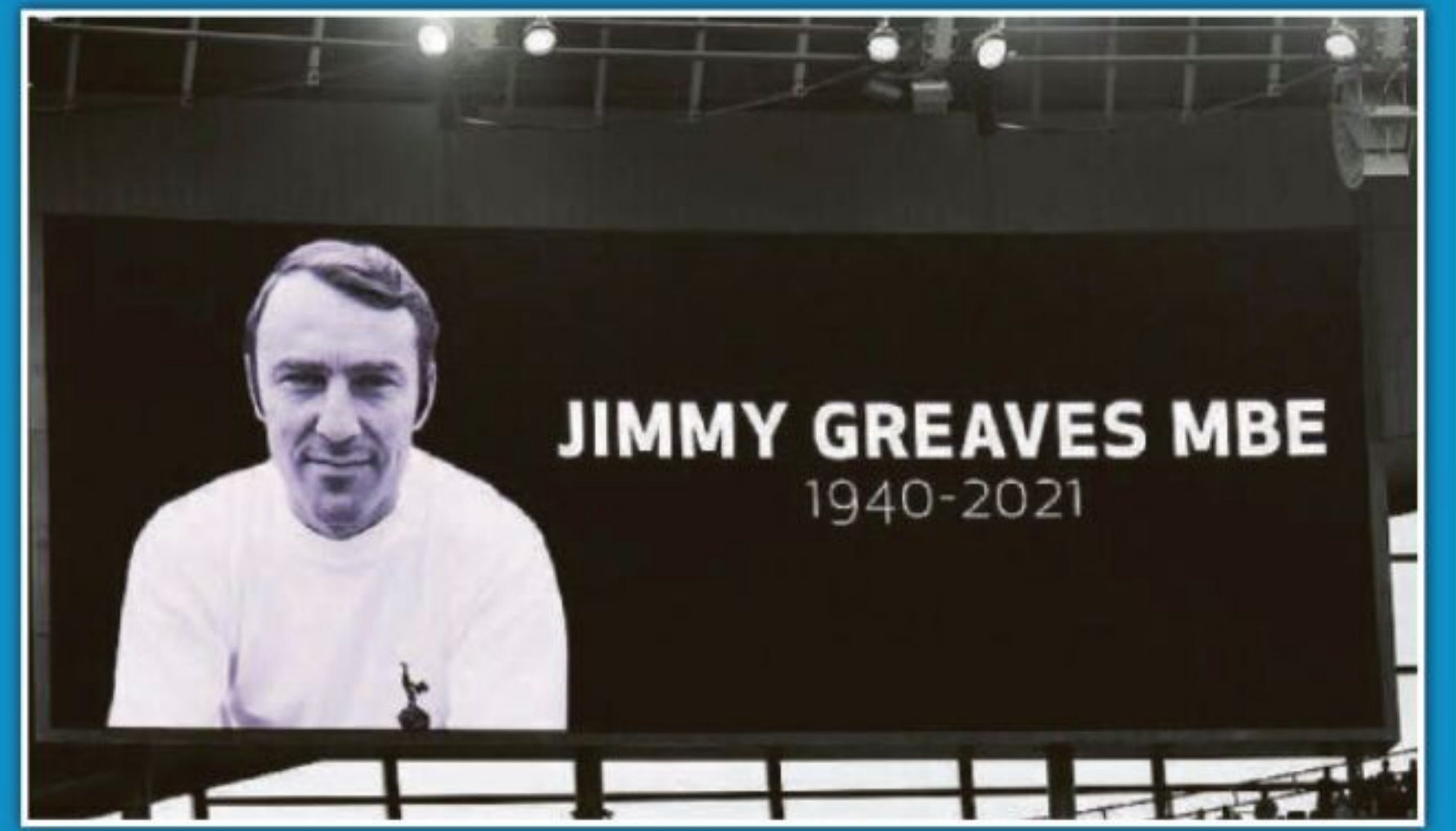
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Mirror Football



FAREWELL TO A HERO

Tottenham fans and former stars - Graham Roberts, Ossie Ardiles, Gary Mabbutt, Ledley King, Paul Allen, Micky Hazard, Steve Perryman, Glenn Hoddle, Martin Chivers and Michael Dawson - applaud in memory of Jimmy Greaves before yesterday's match



GOODBYE TO THE GREATEST

TOTTENHAM heroes lined up to pay tribute to Jimmy Greaves following the death of the legendary striker, aged 81.

Spurs legend Martin Chivers said: "Jimmy was a cheeky chappy, one that always got me into trouble, all pranks and jokes.

"But on the field he was deadly. Defenders flew out at him, but he'd tap the ball in the net." Steve

Perryman spelled out just what made Greavsie so special.

"Jimmy was a professional goalscorer," he said. "That was it. From start to finish.

"He floated across those pitches. He was very single-minded. His job was to be out there - scoring goals.

"And he loved to score."

GREAVES TRIBUTES - PAGES 45-48



Former Spurs stars pay tribute to Greavsie, England's most gifted goalscorer