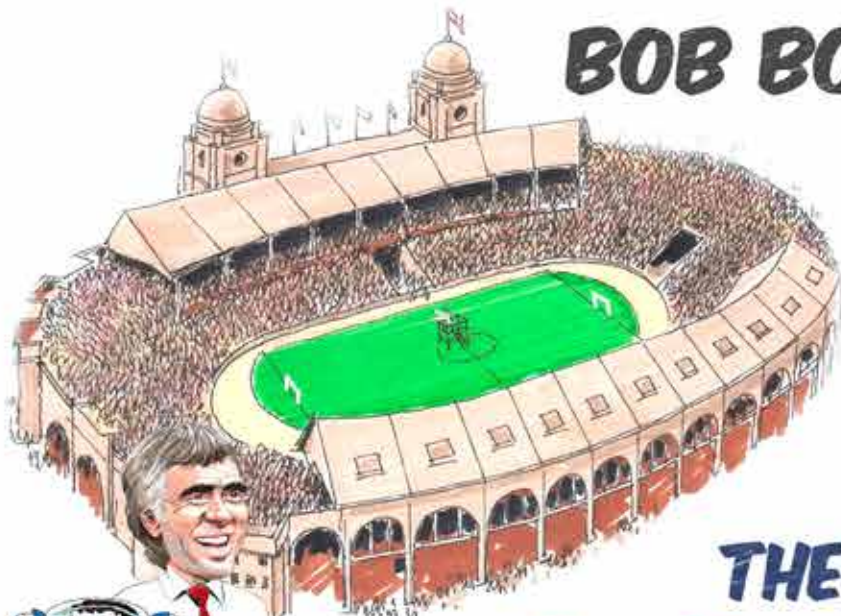


**BOB BOND**



**THE**

# **MAGIC**

**OF THE**

# **FA CUP!**



More Than 150 Years  
of the World's Greatest  
Cup Competition



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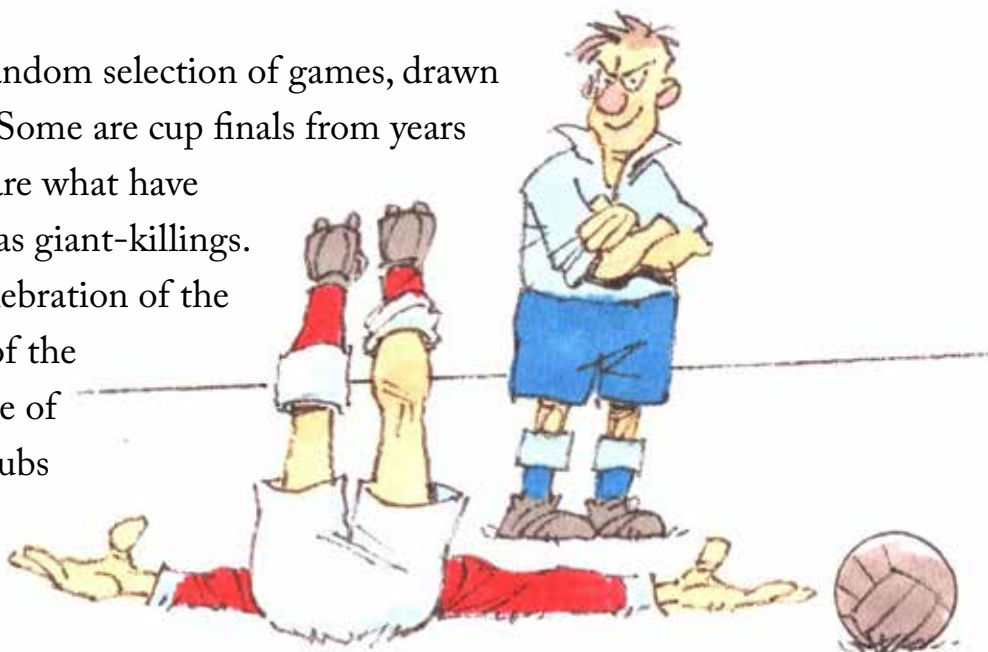


# INTRODUCTION

One hundred and fifty years ago a man had a rather good idea, and the FA Cup was invented.

This book is NOT a comprehensive history of that famous competition. So if you want to know when Fulham won the cup, look somewhere else. If you find out, come and tell me.

In the book are a random selection of games, drawn as match cartoons. Some are cup finals from years gone by and some are what have come to be known as giant-killings. So it is mainly a celebration of the occasional success of the smaller teams. Some of the more famous clubs don't emerge from this book very well.



## THE MAGIC OF THE FA CUP!

But all the cartoons are of FA Cup matches, interspersed with a bit of historical context. Some were drawn at the time of the event but most have been done in 'retro', The cartoon had to be completed for publication a day or two days after the game was played. So all of these drawings have had the same restraint. They had to be drawn quickly. It follows that the artist is rarely pleased with the finished cartoon. Given a little more time, they could all be vastly improved upon.



If you've got this far, read on...

## THE MAGIC OF THE FA CUP!

The man with the plan was Charles Alcock, then the secretary of the Football Association. Around the table sat more men of similar disposition, and Charlie put before them his proposition, 'That a Challenge Cup be established, to which all clubs belonging to the Association should be invited to compete for.'

The others thought it was a spiffing idea, and so the FA Cup competition began. That was in November 1871, and the final was played in March 1872.

Was it something like this cartoon?



# WANDERERS 1 ROYAL ENGINEERS 0



WATCHING THE FIRST FA CUP FINAL AT KENNINGTON OVAL HAS LEFT US WITH SOME SUGGESTIONS...



WOULD IT NOT BE BETTER IF PLAYERS HAD SOME KIND OF PADS TO PROTECT THEIR SHINS FROM THE HOBNAILED BOOTS OF THEIR ADVERSARIES? LIKE CRICKETERS HAVE?



DIDN'T THINK WE'D BE NEEDED THIS EARLY, WALTER...

ONE ENGINEERS PLAYER, THUS CRUELLY HACKED, COULD PLAY NO FURTHER PART.

HE ALSO BROKE A COLLAR BONE, COULD SUBSTITUTES NOT BE EMPLOYED IN SUCH INSTANCES?

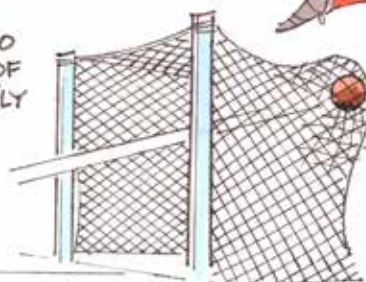


WANDERERS, WITH A FULL QUOTA OF MEN, TOOK FULL ADVANTAGE, MORTON BETTS, WITH A KICK OF SOME VELOCITY, DROVE THE PIG'S BLADDER BETWEEN THE POSTS.



THE ENGINEERS GOAL-MINDER, WHO GOES BY THE NAME OF MERRIMAN, CERTAINLY WASN'T.

HE HAD TO GO BACK A LONG WAY TO RETRIEVE THE BALL.



CAN WE HAVE SOME KIND OF NETTING ATTACHED TO THE POSTS, TO CATCH THE BALL?

AND WHILE WE ARE AT IT, CAN THERE BE A CROSS-BAR OF WOOD BETWEEN THOSE POSTS, INSTEAD OF A PIECE OF STRING?



OTHERWISE THE CONTEST WAS VERY EXCITING, IF RATHER NOISY. THERE WAS MUCH UNNECESSARY HOLLERING AND SCREAMING, ESPECIALLY FROM THE REFEREE, WHO STRUGGLED TO MAKE HIMSELF HEARD.



COULD HE NOT BE SUPPLIED WITH A HORN? OR A PENNY WHISTLE?



SO, THE WINNERS CARRIED AWAY THE TROPHY.



THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN DANCING ON THE STREETS OF WANDERERS LAST EVENING...



## THE MAGIC OF THE FA CUP!

A match report at the time said something like this:

‘Two thousand onlookers, having arrived at the ground in carriages and cabs, saw the Wanderers beat the Royal Engineers at the Kennington Oval on Saturday. It was the final and deciding tie of the newly inaugurated Football Association Cup. Charles Alcock, the secretary of the association, fittingly carried off the trophy at the end, having given a fine exhibition of full-back play for the winning team. The Engineers had been strong favourites before the kick-off, but were soon reduced from 11 to ten fit men when Lieutenant Cresswell fell and broke a collarbone. It was an ugly challenge and the unfortunate victim had to be helped from the scene. The Sappers found the handicap too great although they fought manfully until the end. The only goal was kicked through the posts by Mr Betts just before half-time. The chance was created for him by the Reverend Vidal, after a very elusive dribble. No other participant was seriously hurt, although the tackling was fierce and there was some mighty hoofing and powerful shouldering.

Should this new competition continue, the unlucky losers will no doubt come back next year and try again. They went away clutching their losers’ medals.’

