

*A Celebration of*  
**ANGLO-SCOTTISH  
FOOTBALLERS**



DAVID STUART AND ROBERT MARSHALL

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## 1945/46–1959/60

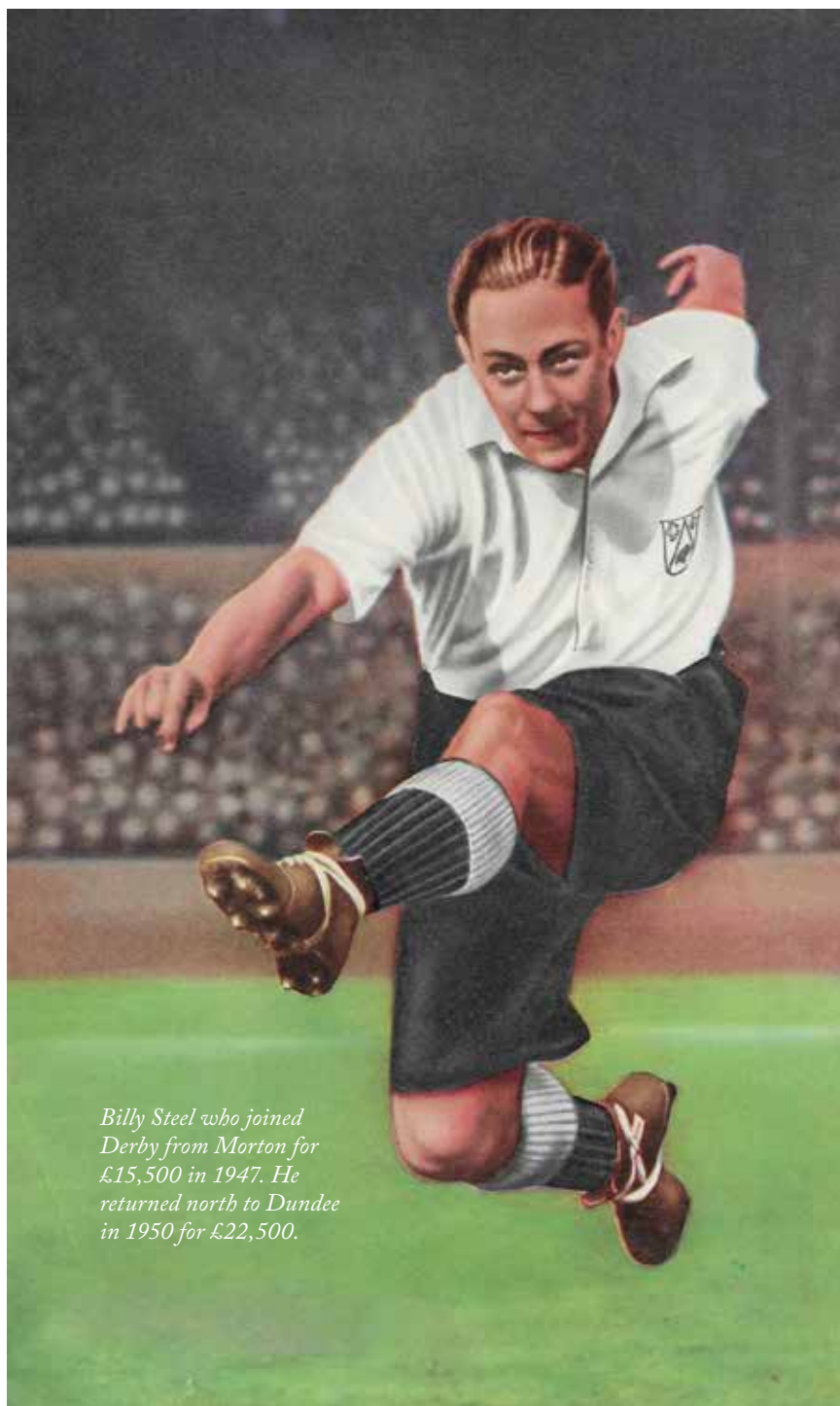
### Overview

The Second World War had a two-part ending – victory in Europe was declared on 8 May 1945 while victory over Japan was announced on 15 August 1945. For a period of six years throughout the hostilities, national football competitions in England were suspended and replaced with regional tournaments with a 50-mile limit for travelling implemented by the government.

Many footballers were enlisted in the armed forces and several were killed in the conflict, including Greenock-born Private James ‘Jumbo’ Gilliespie who played for Luton Town and Portsmouth (killed 1940 during the fighting retreat to Dunkirk); Sapper Thomas Alexander Douglas who turned out for Motherwell, Blackpool, Burnley, Wotton Albion and Rochdale (killed in action in North Africa in 1943); and Flight Sergeant Edwin Watson, a forward with Partick Thistle, Huddersfield Town and Bradford Park Avenue (his aircraft was downed following an encounter with a German U-boat off the coast of France in 1944). Sad reminders that peace came at a price.

The first peacetime competition, the 1945/46 FA Cup, got under way on 1 September with a preliminary qualifying round and then the first round proper commenced on 17 November. However, the league championships did not return until season 1946/47 to give the country a much-needed boost in terms of providing the masses with access to a ‘rare luxury’.

Attendances soared and the development of midweek floodlit matches, especially against overseas opposition, added to the magic. Floodlight pylons became an instantly recognisable and often much-loved piece of British football architecture. Improvements in stadium design, facilities and safety came at a relatively slow pace although a significant



*Billy Steel who joined Derby from Morton for £15,500 in 1947. He returned north to Dundee in 1950 for £22,500.*

development was the building of a new generation of grandstands – the propped cantilever stand – at clubs such as Birmingham City and Leeds United, resulting in improved all-round vision for spectators.

In season 1958/59 league reconstruction took place as the Third Division North and Third Division South were replaced with the non-geographical Third and Fourth Divisions. English football had since 1950 possessed the original ‘Fab Four’, encompassing 92 clubs in total. ‘Got to do the 92’ would become a groundhopping mantra in the 1980s, however road travel to and from football stadia in the 1950s was not so speedy. It was 1958 before the UK’s first stretch of motorway opened – the eight-mile-long Preston bypass. The M1, Britain’s first full-length motorway, opened in 1959.

On the international front and the world’s oldest competition, the British Championship, resumed in season 1946/47. In 1946 the four home nations also rejoined FIFA and England competed at the 1950, 1954 and 1958 World Cup finals. Scotland also competed at the latter two tournaments with Anglos well represented in the playing squads.

The late 1940s and early 1950s was a time of austerity though – dreary, make-do-or-mend years with shortages of goods and services. Rationing for the likes of food, petrol and paper (the latter having a detrimental effect on the production of newspapers, books, match programmes and souvenir cigarette and trading cards), which had been introduced during the war, did not fully end until 1954.

As an aside, FA Cup Final programmes would have a cover price of one shilling (5p) from 1948’s Blackpool v Manchester United fixture until 1969 when Leicester City met Manchester City – it doubled to 10p. The £1 FA Cup Final programme would arrive in 1985 as Everton faced Manchester United, while the £10 version first appeared in 2000 for Aston Villa v Chelsea. The £10, 2024 tome, when Manchester City met Manchester United, extended to 112 pages, while in the 1950s, 20 pages was the norm.

Back to the 1940s and on the plus side Clement Attlee’s postwar Labour government laid the foundations for the ‘modern-day’ welfare state which included the creation of the National Health Service in 1948. As the 1950s progressed, personal austerity faded away and lifestyles improved with new housing and increased car and television ownership. Consumerism boomed and the concept of the British teenager grew in terms of a sense of identity as well as in economic importance. Even the

look of our footballers improved in the 1950s as heavy shirts and baggy shorts gave way to modern lightweight kits as fashioned by our trendy European neighbours.

Like organised football, the British movie industry did its bit to lift the nation's spirits by producing comedy classics such as *Passport to Pimlico* (1949) which poked fun at the aforementioned rationing and bureaucracy; *The Love Match* (1955) starring Arthur Askey as a football-mad train driver with some filming done at Bolton Wanderers' Burnden Park; and *Carry On Sergeant* (1958) a mickey-take of national service which lasted until 1960 and which interrupted many a peacetime football-playing career.

The UK music singles charts were inaugurated in 1952 with Elvis Presley first charting in 1954 and Cliff Richard doing similar in 1958 but with football novelty records and drunken appearances by Scottish footballers on *Top of the Pops* still more than a decade away.

The Independent Television (ITV) network was launched in 1955 and in season 1955/56 the advent of the European Champions Clubs' Cup competition plus the introduction of a BBC TV regular Saturday night football highlights programme, in monochrome, called *Sports Special* (the forerunner to *Match of the Day*), all combined to stimulate an ongoing increase in the coverage of football on television. Live football, however, continued to be a rare treat.

It would be January 1961 before the maximum wage cap for professionals would be abolished in England – a policy that had been in place for 60 years. In 1939 the footballers' maximum weekly wage of £8 was approximately double the average industrial wage but by 1960 the gap had narrowed to £20 and £15 respectively.

In terms of player transfers, the first postwar British transfer record was set in September 1947 when Derby County splashed out £15,500 on Billy Steel to bring Greenock Morton's international inside-left to the Baseball Ground. In March 1960 Manchester City signed Scottish international Denis Law from Huddersfield Town for a British record fee estimated to be £55,000. In the summer of 1961, however, the Lawman would leave Manchester City for Italian side Torino for £110,000, a record for a transfer involving a British player.

For the seasons 1945/46 to 1959/60, the 29 major domestic trophies up for grabs were spread among 17 clubs with Arsenal, Manchester United and Wolverhampton Wanderers all triumphing in both league and cup –



*A young Denis Law  
in his Huddersfield  
Town days before  
big money moves  
to Manchester City,  
Torino and  
Manchester United.*





the West Midlands outfit bringing home five trophies in total. European silverware would start arriving in England from 1963 onwards.

Thirteen of the 14 championship winning-squads contained at least one Scot – Matt Busby’s Manchester United of 1955/56 were the ironic exception – while in the FA Cup, no fewer than 26 of the 30 finalists contained at least one Scotsman in their starting line-up. Eight of the finalists were managed by Scots including future Rangers manager Scot Symon of Preston North End who fielded five of his countrymen against West Bromwich Albion in the 1954 final. To paraphrase the words of the British Prime Minister Harold McMillan in 1957 – ‘We had never had it so good!’

### **Trophy winners 1945/46 to 1959/60**

<i>Successful clubs</i>	<i>League</i>	<i>FA Cup</i>	<i>Total</i>
Wolverhampton Wanderers	3	2	5
Manchester United	3	1	4
Arsenal	2	1	3
Newcastle United	-	3	3
Portsmouth	2	-	2
Burnley	1	-	1
Chelsea	1	-	1
Liverpool	1	-	1
Tottenham Hotspur	1	-	1
Aston Villa	-	1	1
Blackpool	-	1	1
Bolton Wanderers	-	1	1
Charlton Athletic	-	1	1
Derby County	-	1	1
Manchester City	-	1	1
Nottingham Forest	-	1	1
West Bromwich Albion	-	1	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>29</b>

What the above table doesn’t show was that Tottenham’s first four postwar league seasons were spent in the old Second Division – indeed, prior to 1950/51 when they were crowned champions, Spurs’ most recent season in the top flight had been in 1934/35.

In the 1950s Everton spent three successive seasons in the Second Division from 1951/52 to 1953/54, while Liverpool, champions in 1946/47, were relegated at the end of 1953/54 and did not return to the top flight until 1962/63 just in time for the ‘Birth of the Beatles’.

One-off relegation shocks would come to both Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur in the 1970s while Aston Villa, Chelsea, Leeds United, Manchester City and Newcastle United have all ‘yo-yoed’ between divisions, to varying degrees since the end of the Second World War. Blessed are the Arsenal!

## Domestic competitions

*NB: Player appearances statistics are for league games only unless stated otherwise*

The war had seen the end of many careers due to players aging but it also saw the peak for some too. Such a player was Jock Dodds. Born Ephraim Dodds in Grangemouth in 1915, by the time he was 12 Jock was living in Durham and a few years later he would sign on at Huddersfield Town. He failed to make an impression there and likewise in the one season at Lincoln City, however a transfer to Sheffield United saw Jock begin to flourish.

Jock scored 113 goals in 178 league matches for the Blades and was also part of the side that lost 1-0 to Arsenal in the 1936 FA Cup Final. In March 1939 he moved to Blackpool for a fee of £10,000. His official figures for the club show 15 league games and 13 goals.

And yet Jock is a Blackpool ‘Hall of Famer’. During the war years he joined the RAF as a PT instructor and continued to play for his team. Overall, Jock is recognised as the second-top scorer in the war years with a total of 221, only five behind Albert Stubbins of Newcastle but nine ahead of Everton great Tommy Lawton.

All eight of Jock’s Scotland appearances were during the war period and included a hat-trick v England in a 5-4 victory at Hampden in 1942. After the war Jock was sold to Everton to replace Lawton. He hit 36 goals in 55 games before finishing his career back at Lincoln.

## 1945/46

Although there was to be no league competition for this season, the FA Cup was competed for with each round over two legs until the semi-final stage. The semi-finals saw Scots among the goals as winger Chris Duffy scored a brace to win the tie for Charlton Athletic v Bolton Wanderers at Villa Park. At Hillsborough, Jock Mulraney of Birmingham City hit the equaliser to take their match with Derby County to a replay. The replay at Maine Road saw Derby romp home 4-0 to reach the final.

*Jock Dodds who  
netted 221 goals for  
Blackpool during  
the war.*



*Chris Duffy was  
a losing finalist in  
1946 but returned  
to Wembley a year  
later to score the  
only goal to give  
Charlton Athletic  
their only FA Cup  
success.*

At Wembley, Derby ran out 4-1 winners after extra time. Three Scots took part in the contest with Jim Bullions and Dally Duncan showing for the Rams and Duffy the lone Charlton Scot.

Bullions, from Dennyloanhead, signed with Derby in 1946 after two years as a youth. Although his time at Derby was short (17 appearances, no goals), he remained a supporter of the club up until his death in 2014. November 1947 saw him move to Leeds (35/0) and by 1950 he was at Shrewsbury (131/2). Jim then spent the rest of his career in non-league football.

Aberdonian Douglas ‘Dally’ Duncan had been a stalwart in the Derby team (261/63) after signing from Hull City (111/47) in 1932 and was part of the side that finished runners-up in the First Division to Sunderland in 1935/36. Duncan later played for and managed Luton Town (32/4) then managed Blackburn Rovers. He led Luton into the top tier for the first time as Second Division champions in 1955/56 and Blackburn to the 1960 FA Cup Final.

Charlton’s Chris Duffy would see victory in the following season’s FA Cup.

## 1946/47

When the season finally concluded in mid-June due to a decimated winter schedule, Liverpool emerged as champions. They finished on 57 points, one ahead of both Manchester United, with newly appointed manager Matt Busby, and Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Captaining the Liverpool side that year was forward Willie Fagan. Starting out at Celtic (12/9), Willie joined Preston North End in 1936 (35/6) and played in the 1937 FA Cup Final alongside the likes of Bill Shankly and Andy Beattie. Seven Scots turned out for Preston that day but lost 3-1 to a Sunderland side only containing a mere five. Both clubs were also managed by Scots in Johnny Cochrane and Tommy Muirhead. Willie joined Liverpool in 1937 and remained with the Reds until 1952 (158/47).

Full-back Jim Harley, from Methil, joined Liverpool straight from Fife Junior side Hearts of Beath in 1934. He remained with the Reds until 1948 (115/0) when he retired from football.

The third Scot in the championship-winning side was the great Billy Liddell. Winger Liddell joined Liverpool as a 16-year-old in 1938. However, it was to be in 1946 that he was to make his official debut for

the club. He was already an established favourite by this time having made over 150 wartime appearances, scoring 82 goals.

Before his time with Liverpool ended in season 1960/61, Billy made 492 league appearances which at the time was a club record. However, it was not a successful period for Liverpool for in the next few seasons after their 1947 title win, eighth was their highest placing. In season 1953/54 they suffered the ignominy of relegation and did not return until 1962/63.

Billy is still well revered down Anfield way despite the lack of honours his tenure brought.

Once again, Charlton Athletic reached the FA Cup Final to face Burnley, runners-up in the Second Division that season. The match was goalless after 90 minutes and it was to be the lone Scot in Chris Duffy who would score the only goal in the 114th minute to give Charlton their solitary FA Cup success. Outside-left Chris had guested for Charlton during the war and for a modest fee of over £300 transferred from Leith Athletic to the London club. He remained with Charlton until 1953 after which he hung up his boots (162/33).

## **1947/48**

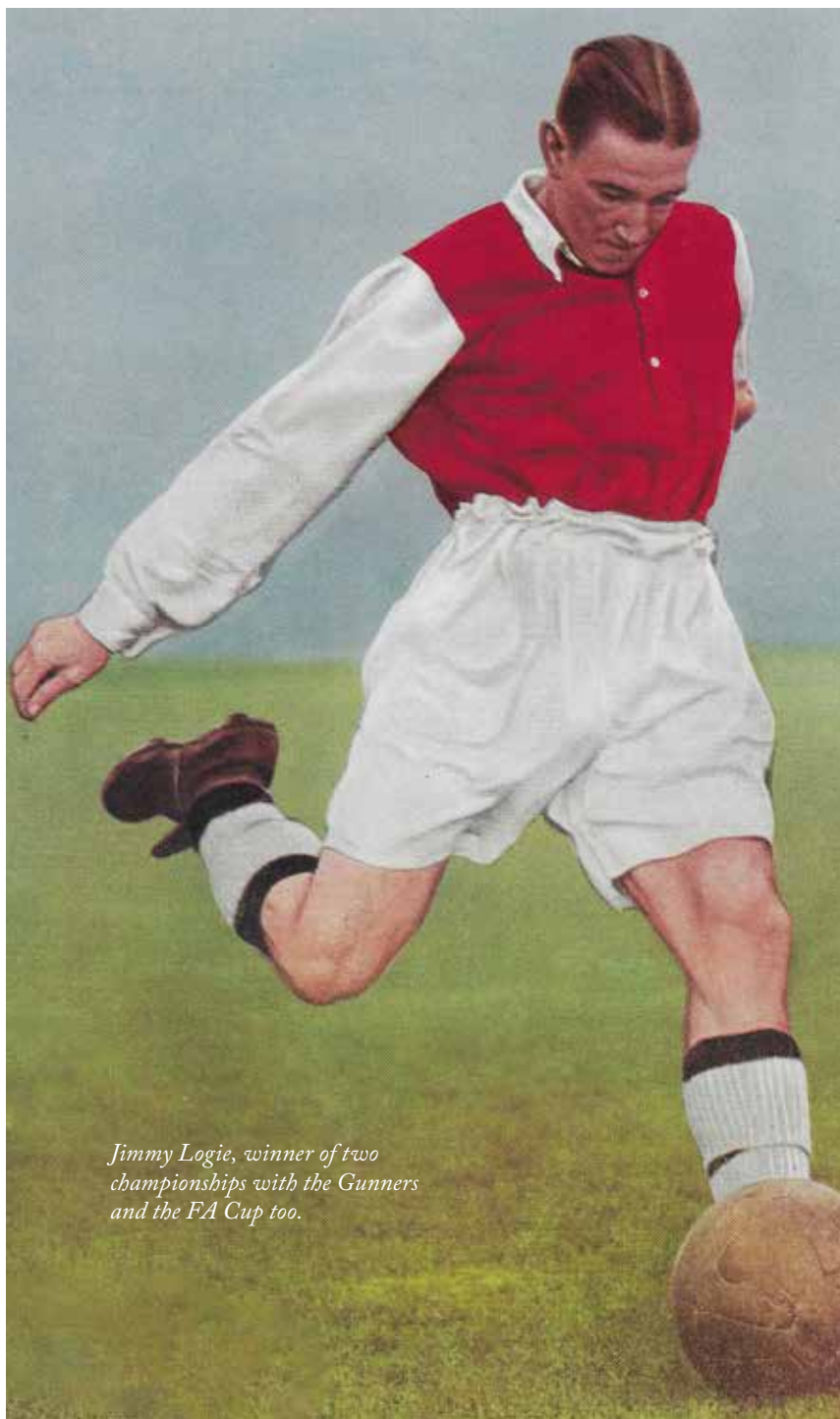
Arsenal won the title with 59 points, seven ahead of Manchester United with four Scots involved.

Edinburgh-born Jimmy Logie had signed for Arsenal in June 1939 from Lochore Welfare. The inside-forward remained with them until 1955 (296/68), winning two championships as well as the FA Cup in 1950. Jimmy ended his career in non-league football with Gravesend & Northfleet. In season 1947/48 Jimmy played 39 games, scoring eight times.

Joining him at the club in 1946 was Glaswegian Ian McPherson, signed from Notts County. Winger McPherson played 29 games, scoring five. He left Arsenal in 1951 (152/19), heading back to County (50/7), and later had spells at Brentford, Bedford Town and Cambridge United.

Playing in 40 matches without netting that season was wing-half Archie Macaulay. Falkirk-born Archie had played for Rangers (36/7), West Ham (83/29) and Brentford (26/2) before moving to Highbury for £10,000 in 1947. Macaulay was a regular in the side over the next few seasons (103/1) before joining Fulham in June 1950 for a few seasons more (48/4).

Dundee-born Alex Forbes had joined Sheffield United (61/6) in 1944 after playing Junior football with Dundee North End. Signed in March



*Jimmy Logie, winner of two championships with the Gunners and the FA Cup too.*





*Liverpool legend  
Billy Liddell.  
Billy played over  
500 games for the  
club but only ever  
won the league  
title in 1946/47  
with them.*



*Jimmy Delaney  
of Manchester  
United who  
won the FA Cup  
in 1948.*

1948, he played in 11 games of the title-chasing run, scoring twice. He also won the FA Cup in 1950 and was part of the side that clinched the 1952/53 Championship

The 1948 FA Cup Final was contested between Manchester United and Blackpool, with the Reds winning 4-2. Outside-right Jimmy Delaney was among Matt Busby's first signings at Old Trafford. Winger Jimmy, who was in his early 30s, had been playing with Celtic for 13 years (143/68) when Busby secured his signature for £4,000. Jimmy left United in 1950 (164/25) for Aberdeen (31/7) before turning out for Falkirk (40/20), Derry City, Cork Athletic and finally Elgin City in the Highland League in 1956/57.

On the Blackpool side were three Scots. Fifer Hugh Kelly was signed in 1944 at age 20 having been with Junior side Jeanfield Swifts. Left-half Hughie also played in the losing 1951 final but a broken ankle kept him out of the victorious 1953 final. He remained at the club until 1960 (428/8).

Forward Alex Munro was bought from Hearts in 1936, staying with Blackpool until he retired in 1950 (136/17). Alex later served the club in a coaching capacity and as a scout for several years.

George Dick had been signed following a trial in 1946 and made an immediate impact, netting 11 league goals in 30 games that season. In 1947/48 he was played less, and the final was to be his last game for the Seasiders (47/13). George had spells at West Ham (14/1), Carlisle (52/23), Stockport (25/12) and Workington (56/16) before moving into management with Racing Club Ghent, Danish club Boldklubben 1909, and Turkish side Galatasaray.

## **1948/49**

Livingston Station-born Jimmy Scoular was one of two players alongside goalkeeper Ernest Butler to play in all 42 of Portsmouth's championship-winning matches. The fiery Scot had signed for Portsmouth in 1945 while based with the Royal Navy in the town. Pompey won the league five points clear of Manchester United, once more in second place. Jimmy played 36 games in the following season's league triumph. He left Pompey (247/8) to play for Newcastle United in 1953 where he won the FA Cup in 1955.

Born in West Kilbride, Ayrshire, Duggie Reid signed for Stockport in 1936 (84/23). Sold to Portsmouth in 1946 for £7,000, he was to become

a regular scorer for the south coast outfit before leaving the club in 1956 (307/129).

Leading scorer in the top flight that year was fellow Scot Willie Moir for Bolton Wanderers, who finished 14th, netting 25 of the Trotters' 59 goals. Aberdeenshire-born Moir signed for Bolton in 1945 and captained the side in the 1953 FA Cup Final.

The 1949 FA Cup Final saw Leicester City lose 3-1 to Wolves. Foxes forward Kenny Chisholm's postwar career looks more typical of a player in the modern era as he flitted from one team to another every couple of years. Starting out as a fresh 16-year-old with Pollok Juniors in 1941, he moved to Queen's Park, Partick Thistle (34/13), Leeds United (40/17), Leicester City (42/17), Coventry City (68/34), Cardiff City (63/33), Sunderland (78/33) and finally Workington (39/15) before a short spell at Glentoran as manager in 1958.

Fellow Glaswegian Charlie Adam had been at Strathclyde Juniors before signing for Leicester in 1938 and remained with the club until 1954 (158/22). After a short spell at Mansfield (94/7) he returned to Filbert Street as a youth coach in 1960 until 1976.

Kingbarns-born defender Sandy Scott signed from Lochgelly Albert in 1947. He spent a few years at Filbert Street (31/0) before heading to Carlisle where he ended his career in 1953 (200/4).

Remarkably, manager Johnny Duncan started his days at Lochgelly but with United and not Albert before playing for Raith Rovers and then Leicester. Johnny was controversially sacked by the club in 1930 as he refused to give up management of the Turk's Head public house in the city. However, in an about-turn from the club he took up management of the side from 1946 to 1949 before leaving once more to continue running his ale house until the mid-60s.

As to the winning Wolves side, Edinburgh-born Jimmy Dunn in lifting the cup emulated his father Jimmy Snr. who had done so with Everton in 1933. Forward Jimmy had joined Wolves in 1942 and spent ten years at the club (123/33). He signed for Derby in 1953 for £15,000 for three seasons (57/21) before moving on to non-league football.

## **1949/50**

Portsmouth retained their title by the slimmest of margins, winning on goal average over Wolves with both on 53 points and Sunderland only a point below. A Duggie Reid hat-trick in a 5-1 final-day win over Aston

Villa at Fratton Park helped clinch it in style. Duggie netted 16 goals over the season in total.

Alongside Reid and Scoular was Glaswegian wing-half Bill Thompson who made nine appearances over the season and three the one before. The three other Scots 'Jimmys' at the club – Elder, Stephen and Dawson – all made one appearance in the 1949/50 title run.

Arsenal won the FA Cup, 2-0 in the final against Liverpool with Alec Forbes and Jimmy Logie playing their part. The two 1947/48 championship winners, Archie Macaulay and Ian McPherson, were both still at the club but not selected.

Liverpool's Billy Liddell had been subject to rough tackling by Forbes and faded out of the game. Willie Fagan, as in 1937 with Preston, would once more be on the losing side at Wembley.

## 1950/51

Tottenham won the Second Division in 1949/50 and lifted the First Division title a year later with 60 points, four ahead of Manchester United. Kirkcaldy-born Alex Wright had signed from Barnsley (84/31) in September 1950 for £12,000 but only played two league games for the club. The following season he moved to Bradford Park Avenue (131/25) until he joined Falkirk in 1955 (95/20). At Brockville he was part of the side that won the 1957 Scottish Cup. He was the only Scot in the Tottenham team.

Newcastle United were to win the FA Cup in 1951, 1952 and 1955. Centre-half Frank Brennan was to play in the first two and left-winger Bobby Mitchell all three. Local hero Jackie Milburn was to net a double in the first of the three successes.

Born in Lanarkshire, Brennan moved from Airdrieonians in 1946 and was to spend ten years on Tyneside (318/3). In his book *Newcastle United Cult Heroes*, Dylan Younger suggests that 'Big Frank is widely regarded as the finest defender in Newcastle United's history', such was the esteem he was held in at St James'.

Left-winger Bobby Mitchell, nicknamed 'Bobby Dazzler' by the Newcastle fans, had been top scorer in Scotland in season 1946/47 with Third Lanark (70/42). A fee of £16,000 in February 1949 saw him move south. Bobby was to remain with the Magpies until 1961 (367/95). He played one more season in Scottish football for Berwick Rangers (51/10) before finishing up at Gateshead as player-manager for a short time.

Hugh Kelly was joined in the Blackpool team that lost 2-0 to the Magpies in the 1951 final, with two fellow Scots who would play for the club throughout the 1950s: goalkeeper George Farm and forward Jackie Mudie.

Farm only played a handful of senior games before moving to Bloomfield Road on a free transfer in 1948 from Hibs (7/0) and remained firmly between the sticks until 1960 (461/1). He moved into management in 1960 while still playing for Queen of the South (119/0) and proved to be quite adept, taking them into the Scottish top tier. Later he was to manage Dunfermline Athletic to Scottish Cup glory and the semi-finals of the European Cup Winners' Cup. Jackie was to become a prolific scorer for the Seasiders after a move to centre-forward in the mid-50s, ending his days at the club in 1960 (324/144). He left Blackpool to join Stoke and enjoyed promotion with them in 1962/63 with Stanley Matthews playing alongside him once more (89/32). Jackie finished his career at Port Vale (54/9) before playing in non-league football with Oswestry Town.

## 1951/52

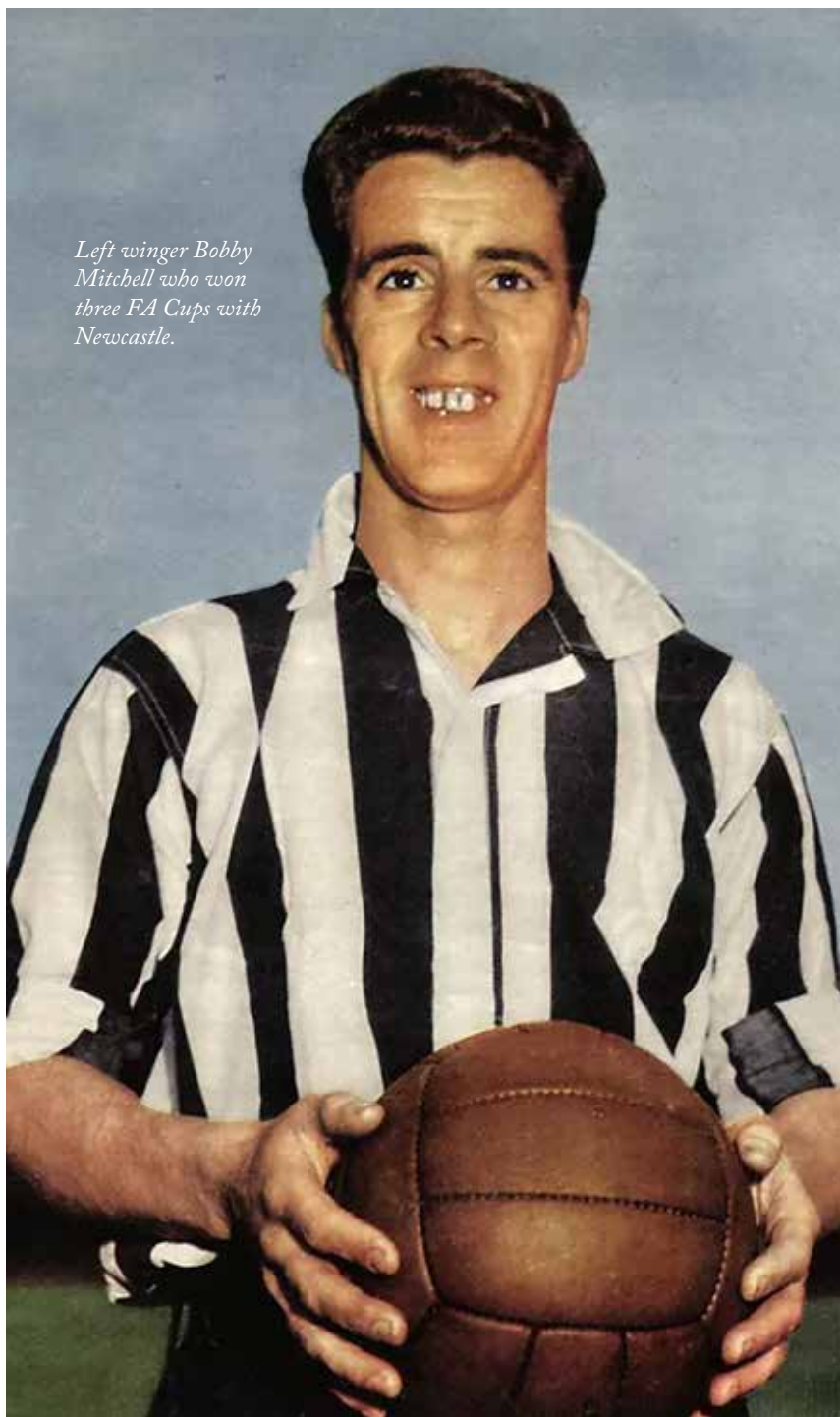
After several years of being runners-up, Matt Busby's Manchester United claimed the title on 57 points, four clear of Spurs and Arsenal. Only a couple of Scots made appearances during the season and like Busby they were both Lanarkshire men.

Inside-forward Johnny Downie was bought from Bradford Park Avenue (86/33) in 1947 for a club record of £18,000. During the title-winning season he played 31 matches, netting on 11 occasions. Johnny left Old Trafford in 1953 (110/35) and had spells at Luton (26/12), Hull City (27/5), Mansfield (18/4) and Darlington (15/2) as well as a host of non-league clubs.

Outside-left Harry McShane was more of a bit-part player in the United success of 1951/52 as he was only to make 12 appearances, although his one goal was to prove the winner against Manchester City at Maine Road. Holytown-born Harry stayed with the club for four years (56/8) having joined from Bolton in 1950 (93/6). McShane had also previously turned out for Blackburn (2/0) and Huddersfield (15/1) and left United for Oldham in 1954 (41/5). His son is the actor Ian McShane of *Lovejoy*, *Deadwood* and *John Wick* fame.

As stated, Newcastle returned to Wembley to triumph once more in the FA Cup. Chilean George Robledo scored the game's only goal to

*Left winger Bobby Mitchell who won three FA Cups with Newcastle.*





give the Magpies victory. Brennan and Mitchell were still integral to the side and were joined by goalkeeping legend Ronnie Simpson. Having started aged 14 with Queen's Park in 1945 (78/0), he was part of the 1948 Great Britain Olympic side before turning professional in 1950 at Third Lanark (21/0). Ronnie signed for Newcastle for £8,750 in February 1951. He won two FA Cups in his time on Tyneside (262/0) before heading to Hibernian (123/0) in 1962. Two years later he joined Celtic (118/0) where he was to amass numerous trophies including the European Cup before retiring in 1970.

On the losing Arsenal side were Jimmy Logie and Alex Forbes.

### **1952/53**

Arsenal won their seventh title on the final day of the season. They had to beat Burnley at home to surpass Preston North End on goal average. Forbes and Logie, who had both played in over 30 games, each scored to give Arsenal a 3-2 victory and secure the championship. Forbes left Highbury in 1956 (240/20) and after short spells with Leyton Orient (8/0) and Fulham (4/0) he coached in South Africa, Israel and Kuwait.

Blackpool and Stanley Matthews finally won the FA Cup with the famous comeback to snatch a 4-3 victory over Bolton. Joining George Farm and Jackie Mudie in the Blackpool side was Ewan Fenton. Dundonian Ewan signed in 1946, and though it took him a while to break into the team he began to establish himself by the 1951/52 season and was named captain by 1956. He was to leave in 1959 (195/20) for Wrexham (24/0) for a season before moving into Irish football as a player and then as a manager.

The losing Bolton team was captained by Willie Moir, the first Scot to captain a side in the FA Cup Final since Jimmy Guthrie did so in Portsmouth's win against Wolves in 1939. Moir was the leading scorer in the top flight in season 1948/49 with 25 goals and also netted Bolton's second in the final.

After ten years at the club (325/118), Willie then ended his career at Stockport (70/26).

### **1953/54**

Wolves won the league for the first time, four points clear of West Brom in second place. The only Scot involved was Methil-born Billy Baxter who played in just a handful of games. Bill had been part of the ground staff as

an apprentice at Molineux in 1939 and finally signed professionally in 1946. He was never a regular in the side (43/1) and moved on to Aston Villa in 1953, joining their backroom staff after a few seasons (98/6). Bill returned to Scotland for two short terms in charge of East Fife and Raith Rovers.

The FA Cup Final was played between West Brom and Preston. West Brom were to win with Gartcosh-born Jimmy Dudley the only Scot in their ranks. Jimmy signed professionally with the Baggies in 1945 and remained with them until 1959 (285/9). His record of 166 consecutive appearances for the club was finally broken by fellow Scot Ally Robertson in 1979. The wing-half moved to Walsall for five years (167/3) and won the Fourth Division title with the Saddlers before playing non-league football for a few years after that.

Preston's English manager Will Scott announced his retirement in March 1953 and Scot Symon, who had been successful with East Fife, took over. They had just missed out on the title and in what would prove to be his only full season with the Lilywhites, Symon took them to the FA Cup Final. He then went on to manage Rangers quite successfully for 13 years before being sacked in 1967. Symon put out five Scots in his side for the final.

Right-back Willie Cunningham was born in the Fife village of Hill of Beath, as was 1960s Rangers legend Jim Baxter, and 21st-century Celtic hero Scott Brown also grew up in the village. Willie started out at Dunfermline in 1946 (3/0) but soon moved to Airdrie (93/9) and then to Deepdale in 1949 for a fee of £5,000. It was money well spent as Cunningham stayed with the club until 1963 (437/3) before becoming player-manager at Stockport for a short stint (12/0).

Glaswegian Tommy Docherty had joined Preston from Celtic (9/2) in 1949. He left Preston (324/5) to join Arsenal for £28,000 in 1958. At Highbury (83/1), 'the Doc' played for three years before moving to Chelsea as player-coach (4/0) in 1961 where he was to begin his long and varied managerial career.

The other three Scots involved were all good servants to the club. Glaswegian Willie Forbes had a brief spell at Dunfermline (6/0) before moving to Wolves in 1946, playing for three years (71/23). The left-half then moved to Deepdale in December 1949, remaining until 1956 (192/7) before ending his career at Carlisle (26/0).

Jimmy Baxter was Willie Cunningham's cousin and like Willie he turned out for Dunfermline before heading south to Barnsley in 1946



*Keepers Bill Robertson who played 26 games in Chelsea's 1954/55 title win and Chic Thomson who played the final 16 matches. Chic went on to win the FA Cup in 1959 with Nottingham Forest.*

