

16  
JUL 1994

# ENGLAND ON THIS DAY

26  
JAN 1963

12  
AUG 1971



HISTORY, FACTS AND FIGURES  
FROM EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR

14  
MAY 1983

8  
APR 1987

ROB BURNETT & JOE MEWIS

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**ENGLAND**  
**ON THIS DAY**

**JANUARY**

## **JANUARY 1**

England legend Stanley Matthews became the first footballer to be awarded a Knighthood today in 1965 when the Queen honoured the Wizard of the Dribble for his 33 years of service on the football pitch. Incredibly enough, Matthews, one month short of his 50th birthday, was still playing top-flight football for Stoke City and would have broken all manner of England records had it not been for the outbreak of World War II and the suspension of international football.

Also receiving a gong from Her Maj in the New Year's Honours list was Gary Lineker who picked up an OBE today in 1992. Everyone's favourite crisp eater celebrated by scoring in Tottenham's 2-1 win over Coventry City later that day.

## **JANUARY 2**

Manchester United were doing their bit to help out the FA in their bid for the 2006 World Cup today in 2000 as they arrived in Rio de Janeiro for the World Club Challenge. After much political pressure from Fifa, the FA and even the government, United pulled out of that season's FA Cup to travel to Brazil, where they crashed out in the group stage and were accused of devaluing the world's oldest cup competition in the process. With England's 2006 bid failing, the whole exercise was about as redundant as a stockroom full of Cristiano Ronaldo shirts at Old Trafford.

Another former United player that made headlines in South America was Charlie Mitten, who died today in 2002. Mitten only played one game for England, an unofficial charity match against Scotland at Maine Road in 1946, but was more famous for being one of the so-called 'Bogotá Bandits' that succumbed to the big bucks of a group of wealthy Colombian businessmen that were intent on bringing big names to the Colombian league. He would later go on to manage Mansfield Town and Newcastle United.

## JANUARY 3

Sepp Blatter, the man it was once said ‘has 50 new ideas every day and 51 of them are bad’ came up with another gem today in 1999 when he said the World Cup should become biennial. ‘The existing four-yearly tournament is out of date,’ he rambled. ‘It dates from the 1930s when teams chugged from one continent to another on ships.’ Thankfully his suggestions were laughed out of town, as watching England crash out on penalties once every four years is quite enough Mr Blatter.

Since breaking onto the scene at the World Cup in 1998, Michael Owen has had enough injuries to fill this book on his own. Today in 2006 he was going under the knife to repair the foot that England teammate Paul Robinson had broken when Owen’s Newcastle took on Tottenham four days earlier. Optimists believed this meant Owen would return in time for that summer’s World Cup as fresh as a daisy, but he instead looked every inch the player who hadn’t played for half a season in Germany later that year.

## JANUARY 4

Howard Wilkinson was entrusted with nurturing the next generation of England stars today in 1997, when he was offered the post of FA technical director. The recently departed Leeds manager remained in the post until joining Sunderland in 2002, where he managed only two wins in 20 games before being sacked.

John Terry’s emergence in the England team was put under threat today in 2002, when the Chelsea youngster was charged with assault and affray after a night out in London with club teammate Jody Morris and Wimbledon defender Desmond Byrne. Terry would later be cleared of all charges, but was handed a temporary England ban by the FA. This came only months after Terry had been fined two weeks’ wages by Chelsea after drunkenly harassing American tourists at a Heathrow hotel in the immediate aftermath of the September 11th attacks in 2001.

## JANUARY 5

Bobby Moore opened his England goalscoring account today in 1966 when he bagged England's equaliser in a 1-1 draw with Poland at Anfield. This didn't really mark the start of a great goalscoring run for the England skipper as he only scored one more goal, but his two strikes in 108 appearances is only a marginally worse ratio than Emile Heskey's.

Other than scoring goals and wearing his heart on his sleeve, Kevin Keegan did what he does best today in 1997, quitting the Newcastle manager's job. The former England captain gave England fans a preview of things to come, although he saved his resignation for the boardroom, not the St James' toilets.

## JANUARY 6

He'd picked up the World Cup with England, the FA Cup and Cup Winners' Cup with West Ham and was closing in on 100 England caps, but today in 1971 Bobby Moore was given the ultimate television honour, when he was presented with the big red book on *This Is Your Life*.

If the arcane England Selection Committee had relinquished their powers earlier and appointed an England manager before Walter Winterbottom in 1946, then they would have surely given the job to Herbert Chapman, the revolutionary Huddersfield Town and Arsenal manager that died today in 1934 after catching pneumonia watching an Arsenal third team take on Guildford City. Chapman was the great moderniser of his era, introducing a host of new tactics and training methods to the English game, championing innovations such as floodlighting, numbered shirts and European club competitions. He was also hit with a ban from the game by the FA when he was Leeds City manager, during the illegal payments scandal that forced the club out of existence.

## JANUARY 7

After a disastrous experiment with a home-grown manager, England went back to going overseas for their new boss, as Fabio Capello took over the post today in 2008. The former Milan, Real Madrid and Juventus coach came with one of the best CVs in the game, having won six Serie A, two La Liga and one Champions League title, but was a rookie on the international stage. The move was warmly met by England fans' figurehead Mark Perryman, who said: 'It's like replacing Captain Mainwaring with Field-Marshal Montgomery.'

When Capello was in charge of Real Madrid he lashed out at David Beckham's decision to move to LA Galaxy and he undoubtedly had the England manager's voice in his head when he decided to temporarily ditch the MLS, joining AC Milan on loan for the rest of the season today in 2009.

## JANUARY 8

The winter of 1962-63 was extremely harsh, with Blackpool not being able to play a single home game between December 15 and March 2 due to their pitch at Bloomfield Road being completely frozen. Today in 1963 Seasiders' England right-back Jimmy Armfield and teammate Tony Waiters saw this a chance to take up ice skating, taking to the pitch to practise their double axels and triple loops.

Today in 1994 Glenn Hoddle was taking charge of his first FA Cup match as Chelsea player-manager and the soon-to-be England boss found himself up against an unlikely opponent: his younger brother Carl who played for the Blues' opposition Barnet. Hoddle junior was on the books with Glenn at Spurs but failed to make the grade and when the two met on the pitch he mixed bossing the Barnet midfield with running a pub. The Bees held their cross-city rivals to a 0-0 draw at Underhill, but Chelsea won the replay 4-0 at Stamford Bridge.

## **JANUARY 9**

Two months earlier Sven-Göran Eriksson had agreed to take over as England boss at the end of the 2000/01 season, but today in 2001 the Lazio boss decided not to bother hanging around and quit the Rome club to take charge of the Three Lions – and the handsomely paid contract that came with it – six months ahead of schedule. The Swede took to the pitch at the Olympic Stadium at the end of Lazio's friendly with China shedding a tear or two as he told the fans he was leaving. They responded with a banner reading: 'Goodbye Mister Eriksson, you are a champion of style.'

England captain John Terry was in the headlines for the wrong reasons again today in 2007, as he was fined £10,000 for improper conduct after slating referee Graham Poll. Serial ref-botherer Terry claimed in the media that Poll had given him conflicting reasons for sending him off against Tottenham two months earlier.

## **JANUARY 10**

Terry Venables announced today in 1996 that he would be leaving the England job after the summer's forthcoming European Championships. El Tel hadn't been offered a top club job or anything respectable like that, but decided he needed to concentrate full-time on the growing number of murky and boring court cases that his failing business career appeared to be throwing up.

One of Sven-Göran Eriksson's first moves as England manager was to bring in his trusty number two, Tord Grip, and it only took 12 months for the pressure of the toughest job in football to show, as Grip was admitted to hospital with a heart problem today in 2002. Grip was quickly released from hospital but had to call off a trip to the African Nations Cup.



## JANUARY 11

David Beckham shocked the footballing world by announcing today in 2007 that he would be leaving Real Madrid at the end of the season to join MLS side LA Galaxy. The former England skipper said he was looking to raise the sport's profile in America and would be receiving a reported £128m over five years for his troubles. Madrid boss Fabio Capello was furious at the decision, saying Beckham would never play for Real again, before making a u-turn and reinstalling him in the side as Los Merengues went on to win the La Liga title.

Following Terry Venables' announcement that he would be standing down as England boss after the European Championships, Kevin Keegan told the FA he was 'not interested' in leaving Newcastle to take up the vacant post today in 1996.

## JANUARY 12

England officially appointed their first-ever foreign manager today in 2001 when the FA handed the reins of football's toughest job to Sven-Göran Eriksson. 'If we don't get results, they will try to hang me. But if I was an Englishman they would try to hang me,' joked the Swede at his unveiling at FA headquarters. Five years of womanising, substitute-tastic friendlies, broken metatarsals and quarter-final exits beckoned.

English football was in mourning on this day in 2017 for one of Sven's predecessors, Graham Taylor, who had died aged 72. It is a sad truth that Taylor was more well known for his unsuccessful spell as England boss – captured so brilliantly in the documentary *An Impossible Job* – than he was for his incredible club football achievements, mostly with Watford and Aston Villa. There was only one thing to say when this news broke: 'Do I not like that.'

## JANUARY 13

Today in 1997, fresh from the success of Euro 96, the FA launched an ill-fated bid to host the 2006 World Cup. Starting as favourites, it looked good for England until Sepp Blatter spoke of his desire to bring the tournament to Africa and then the Germans got in on the act, soon becoming front-runners. When England fans rioted at the 1998 World Cup in France and again two years later in the European Championships any hopes of bringing the world's biggest sporting competition to England had gone up in smoke.

A shoulder injury forced one of England's greatest-ever goalkeepers to quit the game today in 2004. Although he had his fair share of high-profile gaffes between the posts, David Seaman racked up 75 caps, making him England's second-most capped 'keeper, behind Peter Shilton. Man City quickly moved to replace Safehands with his successor in the England goal, David James.

## JANUARY 14

England welcomed Johan Cruyff and his total-footballing Dutch side to Wembley today in 1970. Cruyff was beginning to re-establish himself in the Oranje side after being sent off against Czechoslovakia in his second game and receiving a year-long ban from the Dutch FA, but could not inspire his teammates, as the two countries played out a 0-0 draw in front of 75,000 fans. Bobby Charlton thought he'd given England a win at the death when he hit the back of the net, but the final whistle had already gone.

When 16-year-old Theo Walcott turned out for Southampton against QPR in the Championship clash today in 2006, few believed that this would be his last league game before making his England debut ahead of that summer's World Cup. Walcott's £9m move to Arsenal went through days after Saints' 1-0 loss to the Rs and he would go on to be the wild card in Sven's World Cup squad.

STEVE BLOOMER, ENGLAND'S FIRST SUPERSTAR



IN MEMORY  
OF  
**STEVE BLOOMER**  
1874 — 1938

THIS TABLET WAS ERECTED  
BY MANY OF HIS FRIENDS AND  
ADMIRERS AS AN APPRECIATION  
OF HIS SERVICES TO  
DERBY COUNTY FOOTBALL CLUB  
AND HIS COUNTRY  
ALSO AS A TRIBUTE TO ONE OF  
THE GREATEST PLAYERS THE  
GAME HAS PRODUCED

## JANUARY 15

Sven-Göran Eriksson had a nasty surprise when he went to pick up the Sunday papers today in 2006 and found that his new wealthy best pal with whom he had spilled the beans with regard to his England players and future plans was none-other than undercover *News of the World* reporter Mazher Mahmood, or the ‘fake sheikh’ as he is better known. After saying he would be interested in taking over at Aston Villa following that summer’s World Cup, that Rio Ferdinand was lazy and Wayne Rooney came from a poor family, Sven described the stunt as ‘a kick under the belt’ and commenced legal proceedings, but the writing was on the wall for his England career.

It’s hard to imagine Sir Alf ever sharing a yacht with Arabian royalty. Today in 1969 Ramsey was where he was most comfortable, on the Wembley sideline, as his side struggled to a 1-1 draw with Romania. Jack Charlton’s opening goal was cancelled out by Florea Dumitrache’s second-half penalty.

## JANUARY 16

England eagerly awaited today’s draw for the forthcoming World Cup in 1982, having not played in the competition since Gerd Müller and West Germany had dumped them out of the 1970 tournament in Mexico. What happened next was a textbook Fifa balls-up, as the draw-masters initially forgot to separate the seeded teams and then the containers holding the balls jammed, splitting open and cascading ping-pong balls everywhere. The farce was compounded when West German representative Hermann Neuberger accused the organisers of slave labour by using Spanish orphans to fetch the balls back and forth.

Fabio Capello had only been in the England job for ten days when it was announced that he was under investigation for alleged tax evasion in Italy. This made a change from Sven’s wrongdoings that usually involved tabloid kiss and tells but no charges have since been brought against the Italian.

## JANUARY 17

England took on Scotland in a wartime international today in 1942, with the Three Lions winning 3-0 thanks to a brace from Tommy Lawton and a goal from James Hagan. The blitz spirit was in full effect as over 64,000 fans turned up for the match at Wembley. Whilst these contests were not recognised by Fifa as official internationals, the British government believed it vital for morale to keep the nation's favourite pastime going, with Winston Churchill turning up to a match in October 1941.

Lord knows what Churchill would have made of Gazza's antics today in 1994 when a photo of the Lazio and England playmaker appeared on the front of Italian newspaper *Il Messaggero* with his manhood flopping out of his shorts, taken during a match against Foggia. Both Lazio and the newspaper received a deluge of calls from angry Romans and the paper gave the old 'it's an optical illusion' excuse.

## JANUARY 18

After seven matches against the Scots, England got a new opponent today in 1879, when they played Wales for the first time. The Welsh had played and lost against Scotland three times before they went to the Oval to play England. With a blizzard coming down the match was shortened to two 30-minute halves and reports say that only between 85 and 300 attended due to the poor conditions. England were forced to start with only ten men as William Clegg turned up 20 minutes late, but by the time Clegg was up and running England were a goal up thanks to Herbert Whitfield. Thomas Heathcote Sorby of Thursday Wanderers scored a second on his only cap before William H Davies pulled one back for the Welsh who battled to a respectable 2-1 defeat.

England have met Wales 101 times since and another team they are sick of the sight of is Poland, their 1973 nemesis. Today in 1998 England were drawn in the same Euro 2000 qualifying group as the Poles, for the fifth consecutive time in a major tournament qualifying competition.

## JANUARY 19

With operations at Fifa still suspended following the Second World War, England played an unofficial game against Belgium at Wembley today in 1946. Dubbed a 'victory international', England won 2-0 with first-half strikes from Charlton's Robert Brown and Jesse Pye of Notts County in front of a crowd of 85,000.

As well as going down in history as West Brom's favourite-ever player Jeff Astle won over a new generation of fans on Baddiel and Skinner's *Fantasy Football League*, where the former England striker and staple of the 1970 World Cup anthem *Back Home* would serenade the crowd with a song over the credits. Astle, nicknamed 'The King', died today in 2002 from a brain disease that was caused by the repeated minor trauma of heading old-fashioned leather footballs.

## JANUARY 20

One of England's forgotten greats was born today in 1874. Steve Bloomer made 23 appearances for England at the turn of the century, racking up 28 goals to become the nation's leading scorer. Domestically, he plied his trade up front for Derby County and Middlesbrough, scoring 317 goals in 536 league games and after retiring he went to coach in Germany, but weeks later World War I broke out and he found himself in a prisoner of war camp, where he helped organise football and cricket games before being liberated in 1918. He then went to coach in the Netherlands and finally Spain, where he guided Real Union to the Spanish title.

Today in 2004 Rio Ferdinand began his eight-month ban for missing a drugs test the previous September. Ferdinand had told the FA he had forgotten to take the test as he was moving house and had to go shopping, but this didn't wash and he was hit with a £50,000 fine as well as being forced to sit out England's Euro 2004 challenge.

## JANUARY 21

Having seen Scotland go four years without beating England, Bolton outside-forward Alex Donaldson was obviously of the belief that 'if you can't beat them, join them', when he headed up to Sunderland today in 1914 for an England international trial game and tried to blag a place in the Three Lions' side. Just before kick-off he 'fessed up and played for the Scots in their 3-1 win over England three months later in the final England match before the outbreak of the First World War.

Today in 1973 England took on Wales in a World Cup qualifier at Wembley, drawing 1-1. Future Wales boss John Toshack opened the scoring, but the Dragons were soon pegged back by a Norman Hunter strike just before half-time.

## JANUARY 22

Sir Alf Ramsey, the only man to succeed where every other England manager has so far failed, was born in Dagenham today in 1920. Sir Alf came from a working class background and played for Portsmouth in the London War League before moving to Southampton to begin his professional career in 1943, where he built up a reputation as an excellent reader of the game, turning out at right-back for England on 32 occasions. Nicknamed 'the General', Ramsey moved into management with Ipswich after hanging up his boots, where his exploits alerted him to the FA, who appointed him in 1963.

Sir Alf shared his birthday with another England great, Everton striker Dixie Dean, who was born today in 1907. Dean bagged a remarkable 12 goals in his first five games for England and was a renowned hard man, going under the knife 15 times during his career and after having a metal plate inserted in his skull following a motorcycle crash. He was back on the pitch within three months.

## JANUARY 23

After being suckered by the 'fake sheikh' a week earlier, Sven-Göran Eriksson announced today in 2006 that he would be stepping down as England manager after the 2006 World Cup. Sven was quick to allay fears his heart might not be in it during England's travails in Germany that summer by saying: 'It is important to stress how committed I am to success this summer. Let's go and win the World Cup.' This battle cry was nowhere near enough to catapult England to World Cup glory, but with a reported £3m compensation package it's unlikely that the Swede was crying into his P45.

An 18-year-old Jermain Defoe got England fans' pulses a-racing today in 2001, as he broke the post-war record of goals in consecutive games, making it ten in a row when the on-loan striker scored for Bournemouth against Cambridge. Plenty of 'England's next big thing' type headlines appeared, and Defoe ended his England career with 20 goals in 57 appearances.

## JANUARY 24

Prolific Notts County goalscorer Jackie Sewell was born today in 1927. The inside-forward made six appearances for England, scoring three times, but saw his international career go up in smoke when he was part of the two England teams that were humbled by the Mighty Magyars of Hungary in 1953 and 1954. After scoring 97 times in 179 games for the Magpies Sewell was transferred to Sheffield Wednesday for an English record £34,500 in 1951.

Five years earlier Stoke City's Cornelius 'Neil' Franklin, one of the so-called 'Bogotá Bandits' was born. Franklin had represented England 27 times when he broke his contract at the Victoria Ground to join Independiente Santa Fe on a £5,000-per year contract, with a £35 win bonus on top. However, after only four weeks in Colombia he returned after political and social unrest made it hard for Franklin and his family to settle. A ban from the England team awaited him on his return.



## JANUARY 25

The draw was made for the Euro 2004 qualifying campaign today in 2002 and England were handed a diplomatic and security headache when they were paired with Turkey. This came only two years after two Leeds fans had been killed prior to their Uefa Cup tie with Galatasaray and further clashes between fans when the Istanbul club took on Arsenal in the final later that season. Making up the numbers in group seven was the undaunting trio of Slovakia, FYR Macedonia and Liechtenstein.

Trevor Sinclair was filling England's infamous 'problem left hand side' at this time and today in 1997 he scored his most famous goal: a spectacular overhead kick for QPR against Barnsley in the FA Cup that bagged him *Match of the Day's* goal of the season.

## JANUARY 26

Today in 2006 the FA announced they wanted to appoint Sven's successor before the World Cup got underway in Germany that summer. A three-man team were dispatched to sound out candidates, coming up with a shortlist including Martin O'Neill, Guus Hiddink, Alan Curbishley, Stuart Pearce and Sam Allardyce. Somehow, Steve McClaren also sneaked onto the radar.

One of the best managers that England never had was Tottenham stalwart Bill Nicholson, who was born today in 1919. As a player Nicholson turned out at wing-half 314 times for Spurs and was a one-cap wonder with the England team, but as manager led Spurs to English football's first double of the twentieth century in 1961. He also chipped in during the 1958 World Cup, assisting manager Walter Winterbottom in Sweden.

## JANUARY 27

Today in 2006 out-going England manager Sven-Göran Eriksson reacted to the draw for the Euro 2008 qualifying campaign, sounding every bit the man that knew he would not be in charge when it started. 'I think it's a good draw,' he said. 'I think England should be happy with that draw. I'm convinced they will pass through rather easily. He should be happy with the draw and he will be, whoever it is.' His former assistant Steve McClaren would not have wanted to be reminded of these words two years later when he had made a pig's ear of what Sven saw as a silk purse.

Former England international Gary Charles, the man most famous for being on the receiving end of Paul Gascoigne's infamous knee-high tackle in the 1991 FA Cup Final, appeared in court today in 2003 after ploughing his car into a garden wall and being found in a drunken stupor. Injuries had forced an early end to his playing career and he was jailed in December 2006 after committing a public order offence whilst serving a suspended sentence.

## JANUARY 28

Wheeler-dealer Terry Venables blagged himself the England manager job today in 1994. The former Tottenham gaffer left White Hart Lane after falling out with Spurs chairman Alan Sugar and stayed in the England job for two-and-a-half years, leading the Three Lions to Euro 96 before becoming the first England manager to resign from the post for dodgy business dealings.

Venables had a three-year spell as Barcelona boss that saw him pick up the nickname 'El Tel' and today in 1999 Steve McManaman was dubbed 'El Macca' as the England and Liverpool midfielder agreed to join Real Madrid on a Bosman transfer at the end of the season. The Scouser was an instant hit with the Bernabéu faithful, scoring a spectacular volley in the 2000 Champions League final as he picked up a pair of La Liga and European Cup titles.

## JANUARY 29

Bobby Robson handed debuts to Southampton winger Danny Wallace and Liverpool striker Peter Beardsley for a friendly against Egypt in Cairo today in 1986. England saw off the Pharaohs 4-0, with Trevor Steven scoring England's 1,500th goal in the process. Wallace marked his debut with a goal, but this would be his only international appearance and his career would later be cut short when he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Since retiring he has established the Danny Wallace Foundation to provide aid for those suffering with the disease and completed the London Marathon in 2006 in five-and-a-half days in order to raise awareness.

Tommy Taylor, one of the eight 'Busby Babes' that died in the Munich air disaster, was born today in 1932. Taylor played for England in the 1954 World Cup and was one of the greatest centre forwards of his era, scoring 16 goals in 19 international appearances before his life was tragically cut short in 1958.

## JANUARY 30

Despite his genius with the ball at his feet, Glenn Hoddle has never really had the people skills to match. Today in 1999 his infamous interview in the *Times* was published, where he gave his tuppence worth on reincarnation. 'You and I have been physically given two hands and two legs and half-decent brains,' he told Matt Dickinson. 'Some people have not been born like that for a reason. The karma is working from another lifetime...what you sow, you have to reap.' Controversy would ensue...

More woe for England today in 2006, as Multiplex, the company tasked with building the new Wembley Stadium, showed that their finishing was even worse than Andy Cole's, as they missed another deadline to hand the keys over.

## JANUARY 31

Bobby Moore's first wife Tina put her ex-husband's collection of medals and trophies up for sale today in 1998, as she looked to secure the financial future for herself and her children. For a mere £2m you could have had your hands on Bobby's World Cup winner's medal, his solid gold Player of Players trophy from the tournament, his set of international caps from his 108 England appearances and his BBC Sports Personality of the Year gong.

Fabio Capello announced his first England squad today in 2008 and there was no room for his former Real Madrid charge David Beckham, due to a lack of match practice for the new LA Galaxy midfielder. There were no other real surprises in Capello's 30-man squad ahead of the friendly with Switzerland as he promised to take a further look at Beckham once he was up and running in the MLS.