

CUP FINAL 1956

It was like a summer day at Wembley. In the 100,000 crowd were many from Manchester and Birmingham, up for the cup. As usual the two teams came on to the arena side by side. Manchester City in striped shirts. On to the sunlit field to greet the teams (Birmingham first) came the Duke of Edinburgh. He had a special word, on the Manchester City side, with Bert Trautmann, the German who has been honoured as footballer of the year.

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The Queen's party in the Royal Box included the Duke of Gloucester. Birmingham won the toss and chose to play with the sun behind them. In the first minute the ball swung from end to end. The northerners included Don Revie, the great player who gave his name to the famous Revie plan but who has not lately commanded his place in the side. How fortunate for Manchester City that he played at Wembley.

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~~Manchester and Birmingham sides in the first Birmingham scored in the game was three minutes old~~

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The game was not three minutes old when ~~Manchester~~ inside-right Joe Hayes was put in possession. He beat Merrick and Manchester City had got that all-important early goal.

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Eleven minutes went by before Birmingham recovered from the shock. Then Brown put the ball into the middle and again it was an inside-right, Noel Kinsey, who scored the ~~goal~~ equaliser.

At the interval the teams were level, one-one. So far, each side in turn had been on top. What was to happen now? ~~Birmingham kicked off.~~ <sup>Birmingham's</sup> ~~their~~ position as hot favourites had been disputed as the great day drew near

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and Merrick was being called upon to <sup>save</sup> say his charge as often as Trautmann at the other end. Minor injuries were frequent. ~~By the time the game was over the Manchester City goalkeeper had been injured in several places.~~

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One of them might have been serious, when Manchester City left-back, Roy Little, was kicked in the face. Fortunately it wasn't. The skipper, Roy Paul went to his aid.

The great crowd was electrified when Dyson took a pass from Bobby Johnstone and got Manchester City's second goal.

(af crowd)

Trautmann saved what might have been a goal and almost before the cheers that Dyson earned had died down Manchester City made the issue all-but certain... ~~\*~~ Trautmann's clearance was flicked forward to Bobby Johnstone and the Scottish interantional gave Merrick no change.

Trautmann ~~Trautmann~~ was now very much in the wars. Making a spectacular <sup>a</sup> save he hurt his neck, recurrence of an old injury. Fortunately he didn't have to go off.

Making another <sup>hurt</sup> save the poor Trautmann was ~~injured~~ again, this time, apparently, in the stomach.... The famous goalkeeper revived sufficiently to carry on. He was certainly earning his cup medal the 'hard way.

(af crowd)

Despite Trautmann's condition, Manchester City were in no danger. The game was in its last minute and it would have taken a miracle to save Birmingham. There was no miracle at Wembley. Manchester City, in their second attempt in two years had won the cup. .... Roy Paul was a very proud and happy man as he led his men to the Royal box to receive the greatest trophy in sport and, of course, the cup medals. What a year for Manchester: United top of the league Manchester City very worthy winners of the cup.