



ABOVE: One for the old-timers. Ten of the Yeovil team that beat Sunderland in the F.A. Cup in 1949 pictured at their get-together at Huish on Wednesday. Back (left to right)—Bob Keeton, Les Blizzard, Bobby Hamilton, Alec Stock, Dickie Dyke, Jackie Hargreaves. Front—Ralph Davis, Arthur Hickman, Ray Wright and Eric Bryant. Nick Collins was the absentee.

BELOW: One for the new generation. World Cup star Bobby Moore signing autographs before the match.



## JOHN LUKINS REPORTS ON THE NIGHT THEY TURNED THE CLOCK BACK

# ALEC'S CUP STARS RETURN TO HUISH

Alec Stock, son of a Somerset miner, turned his back on the bright lights of London on Wednesday and returned to the club which launched him on the road to soccer stardom.

And with him on his nostalgic journey to Yeovil, Stock brought Bobby Moore, Alan Mullery and the rest of the Fulham team which played in Saturday's F.A. Cup Final.

Success has affected neither Alec Stock's head nor his heart.

On Wednesday he had as much time as anyone would allow him for any of his old cronies who were around Huish in 1946 when Stock, almost as green as the grass, came from Queens Park Rangers at the tender age of 27 to become manager-secretary of Yeovil.

And Stock was never far away from the wheelchair that housed the other inside-forward in the Yeovil team of yesteryear. It was for Ray Wright's benefit that Stock's stars and 5,321 local fans had gathered, and as men who had not met for quarter of a century or more came face to face again, it was all very moving.

The amazing 2-1 F.A. Cup victory over Sunderland on 29th January, 1949, set Stock on the road to fame. But it did little for Ray Wright, then nearing the end of his playing career.

Although it left him with a scrapbook of memories that he wouldn't swap for anything, Ray was soon to fade from soccer to become a licensee, and as the years slipped by he moved on to Leighton Buzzard to become steward of the local golf club.

Illness, however, forced him

to retire prematurely after he lost both legs. Still only 56, he has done little work in the past five years.

It was characteristic that Stock should wish to help a friend who had fallen on hard times . . .

For the rest of us, too, it was an unforgettable night. Seeing the Cup Final side and Bobby Moore was an attraction of course, but the memory I shall treasure longest was the half-time introduction of 10 of the team that beat Sunderland. (What a pity wing-

half Nick Collins couldn't travel from London to join in the fun).

One by one they were brought on to the field and introduced. Were these really the men I had idolized as a nine-year-old?

Dickie Dyke . . . Arthur Hickman . . . Ralph Davis . . . Bob Keeton . . . Les Blizzard. Many wore spectacles. There were several bald patches where hair had once flourished: Bobby Hamilton . . . Alec Stock . . . Eric Bryant (90 goals in 70 games for Yeovil

— what a man!) . . . Ray Wright himself . . . and Jackie Hargreaves.

There they stood in the glare of the television lights, reliving a bit of the glory they thought had gone for ever.

Soon it was back to the football. Fulham, trailing to a Stuart Housley goal at the break, spoilt Yeovil's hopes of yet another giant-killing by hitting back to win 2-1. Jimmy Conway, who was injured, was the only one of the Wenbley side not playing. His stand-in, Barry Lloyd, levelled, and Viv Busby got the winner in the 80th minute.

'It's a great night for us — really wonderful,' said Ray Wright and his wife Betty, who should be taking something like £2,000 back to their Bedfordshire home.

But Ray's next words showed the sort of unselfish man he is. 'We've brought down a young reporter from our local paper. He's a first-class lad, look after him will you?'

With that, along came another face from 25 years ago. It was time for us youngsters to clear off . . .

AGENTS, MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 1949.

**YEovil.**  
A town that's making football history and also gloves. There are so many gloves made in Yeovil that their goal keeper has to wear them wherever they will fit!



**Alec Stock.**  
His surprised expression is not through winning cup ties. It's because he cannot understand why Yeovil are not at Wenbley already!

Tom Webster

## DRAMATIC VICTORY IN CUP-TIE SOCCER Sunderland Find Yeovil Town a Surprise Packet

(The Argus Correspondent)

London, Monday.

**YEovil** Town of the Southern League, the only team outside the England football league left in the Football Association cup, earned undying fame on Saturday with a thrilling fourth-round victory in extra time over the First Division "giants", Sunderland. The gallant Somerset club thus equalled the feat last season of Colchester United, who reached the fifth round before going out at the hands of Blackpool, who were the eventual finalists.

Whether Yeovil's sloping pitch played any part in the result the fact remains that on the day's play Sunderland could not grumble at defeat. The jubilant men of Yeovil played with extreme confidence and their persistent raids put Sunderland out of their stride. Yeovil were mobbed by a record crowd of 17,000 as the final whistle sounded.

Alec Stock, their player-manager, gave Sunderland an initial shock with a first-half goal. Sunderland equalised through Robinson when Richard Lyke, the young amateur deputy goalkeeper, made his only serious mistake by dropping the ball. Centre-forward Eric Bryant, the former Mansfield Town sharpshooter, notched the deciding goal for Yeovil in extra time.

### HELD CUP HOLDERS

### "At the Top"

"We can only look forward to the future in the hope that the new players we are signing will strengthen the side," said Mr. Smith, "and we hope put us back in our rightful position in the football world—at the top." In a tribute to the Supporters' Club, who had given £11,700 to the Parent Club the Chairman said "Without their help it would have been impossible to carry on."

Commenting that last season "nothing said I might have been complacent which led me to expect the successful side of the season before to do equally well. Until October, in fact, their goal average was better than the unfortunate circumstances which led to the transfer of Albert Finlay, and the loss of Vic Dyke through illness, inspire a crowd and a team as well," said the Manager, "and I consider it a tragedy if to Yeovil football that he has been obliged to give up the game."