

PICKLES SAVES THE WORLD CUP

28th March 1966

The Jules Rimet Trophy (World Cup) has miraculously been found by a dog named Pickles in Beulah Hill, London. The trophy was stolen on 20th March 1966 after it was displayed in the Stampex Exhibition, run by the Stanley Gibbons' Stamp Company.

The theft of the famous trophy shocked the globe, with England due to host the football World Cup in July of this year.

The Football Association received the Jules Rimet Trophy in February of this year and have been keeping it safe at their headquarters in London. However, the FA agreed to let the Stanley Gibbons' Stamp Company borrow the cup for their exhibition at Westminster Central Hall.

Guards were hired to protect the trophy at all times, but on Sunday 20th March the room was left unguarded as a church service took place in the hall. It is believed that criminals broke in that morning and committed the crime.

Who did it?

The leading suspect in the robbery was a man nicknamed 'Jackson', who phoned the FA claiming to have the trophy and demanding a ransom of £15,000.

The thief threatened the FA and said that he

would melt the Jules Rimet down unless the he received the money. Working alongside the police, Mr Joe Mears, Chairman of the FA, came up with a plan to trick the thief. They used ordinary paper to print out the £15,000 but placed real money in the top of the suitcase to convince Jackson that the ransom was real.

Last week, the police agreed to meet Jackson to exchange the ransom money. They arrested the thief and discovered him to be a man whose real name was Edward Betchley, a known criminal. An eye-witness, named Mrs Coombes, also identified Betchley as the 'suspicious man' she saw near the Westminster Central Hall on the day of the theft.

Where was the trophy?

Betchley would not inform the police or the FA where the Jules Rimet Trophy was hidden. The trophy remained lost until yesterday where Pickles, a family pet, saved the day. The black and white collie dog was on his daily walk in Battersea Park, London, when he began sniffing underneath a hedge not far from his owner's house.

Mr Corbett, Pickles' owner, said his dog would not leave the suspicious package alone and, when he investigated further, he found some

old newspaper tied up with string. Mr Corbett unravelled the newspaper and was stunned to find a gleaming trophy. Corbett told reporters, 'When I saw the name on the bottom, Brazil – 1962, I knew I had found the missing Jules Rimet Trophy. I couldn't believe it!'

Some people immediately believed that Mr Corbett may have had some part to play in the theft, but he has provided police with an alibi to prove his innocence.

The FA have said they are 'delighted' to find the valuable trophy before the World Cup begins in July, and Pickles the dog is now being called a 'national hero'. It is thought Pickles and his owner, Mr Corbett, will be asked to appear on the television in the coming weeks, and there has even been rumours that they will both attend the England players' celebration dinner which is planned for after the World Cup.

Mr Corbett is in line to receive the reward money of up to £6,000; however, perhaps the one who should be getting the treats is Pickles the dog!

Can England win the cup?

England will host their first ever World Cup in July this year and will be desperate to use the excitement of finding the stolen trophy to boost their chances of winning. The first World Cup took place in 1930 but England only joined the competition in 1950. After losing to the USA and Spain, an embarrassed England were sent home from the host country, Uruguay, in the group stages. Our Three Lions have never made it further than the quarter-finals, losing to Brazil in 1962.

After victories in Sweden in 1958 and again in Chile in 1962, Brazil will come to England this summer hoping to win the title for a third time

in a row.

Who will lift the Jules Rimet trophy in Wembley on 11th July?



RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. What is the name of the World Cup Trophy?
2. What does F.A. stand for?
3. What was the real name of the man that was arrested?
4. How much was the reward for finding the trophy?
5. Before 1966, which round had England never been past?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

- I** Why were guards hired to protect the trophy at all times?
- V** Find and copy the word which means the same as 'demand money in return for setting someone or something free'.
- S** How did the police trick the thief?
- V** '*Mr. Corbett unravelled the newspaper and was stunned to find the gleaming trophy.*'
Can you think of two synonyms for the word 'stunned'?
- I** What is the nickname of the England Football Team?
- I** Who won the World Cup in 1962?
- E** Explain how the three subheadings are similar. How do they engage the reader?

Answers:

1. Jules Rimet Trophy
2. Football Association
3. Edward Bletcherley
4. £6000
5. Quarter Finals

I: Because it was valuable AND it was not in its usual place.

V: Ransom

S: They printed fake money for the ransom, put it in a bag with real money on the top and then agreed to pay the thief.

V: Accept any synonyms for stunned such as shocked, surprised etc

I: The Three Lions

I: Brazil

E: They are all rhetorical questions. They make the reader answer the questions in their heads before reading the passage.