



# TIME OF OUR LIVES

WEMBLEY 1966. A two-word combination that has held English football in its thrall for half a century.

But for Wealdstone Football Club that phrase holds even more importance - because 'Football Came Home' for our club even before England's dream of reaching and winning the World Cup on that glorious day in July 1966 came to fruition.

In this corner of NW London, the achievement of Sir Alf Ramsey's boys was simply a footnote to the drama that had played out at Wembley three months earlier. When Geoff Hurst's hat-trick goal hit the back of the West Germany net, nobody who had been at Wembley on April 16 for the Amateur Cup Final was too bothered about people being on the pitch, or thinking that 'it's all over.... it's now'.

To their minds it was all over when Bobby Childs stuck the ball past John Swannell with barely a minute remaining of the final against Hendon. Three goals to one ahead, thousands upon thousands of Stones fans, and the players



**1-1** Bobby Childs' opportunist effort from outside the box slips under the body of Hendon's Amateur International 'keeper John Swannell and it's game on at Wembley

themselves, bellowed with joy at the realisation that the famous old trophy was on its way to Lower Mead.

Friendships were forged that day that have stood the test of time. Small boys and girls, heady with the delirium of seeing their heroes win on the greatest stage of all, lost their hearts to the boys in blue and white and many of them are still fans to this day.

In many ways, that day 50 years ago forged the very soul of Wealdstone FC. It elevated a middle-ranking amateur club into the non-League elite, paving the way for eventual acceptance into the semi-professional game and thence into the Football Conference.

And it's because of this that The Wealdstone Boys of 66 deserve our thanks and undying gratitude for the memories and the prestige they



**2-1** The crowd erupts and scorer Bernie Bremer (No.11) leaps for joy after putting the Stones ahead with just four minutes remaining. The trophy is within reach..

brought to the club.

Last year we celebrated the 30th Anniversary of our 1985 non-League Double-winning side - a terrific occasion and the chance to look back and reminisce on another famous Wembley-winning team. But when a few of our supporters started to discuss the merits of Vince Burgess's 1966 Boys and Brian Hall's 1985 legends, it became obvious that the two line-ups were chalk and cheese.

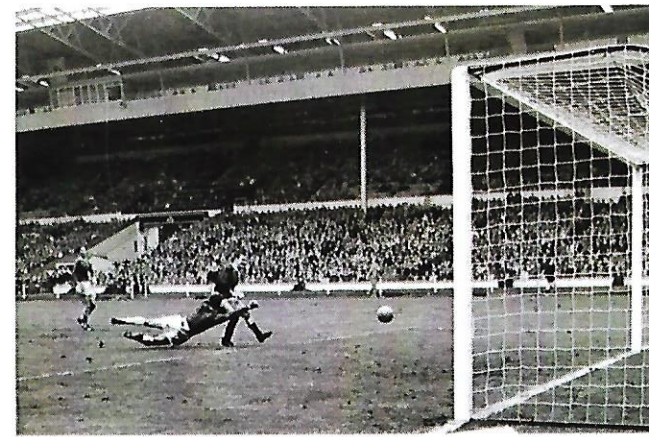
Long-standing supporter Jon Irvine is in no doubts. 'The 1985 team can't hold a light to the 1966 amateurs' he asserts. 'One was pragmatic, the other entertainers. I'm not sure who would win, but I know who I'd rather watch'.

Today we raise a toast to the fabulous Boys of '66. Good health, long life and never forget the joy you brought to us all.

**Here today: Arthur Paisley, Mickey Doyle, Gordon Sedgley, Charlie Townsend, John Ashworth, Eddie Dillsworth, Brian Allen, Jim Cooley, Hughie Lindsay, Bernie Bremer, Roy Lavender and John Wortley**

**Absent friends: Brian Goymer, Bobby Childs and Vince Burgess. God bless them.**

BY TIM PARKS



**3-1** Bobby Childs is the man in the right place after Swannell could only parry Hughie Lindsay's raking drive into his path. They think it's all over.. and it was