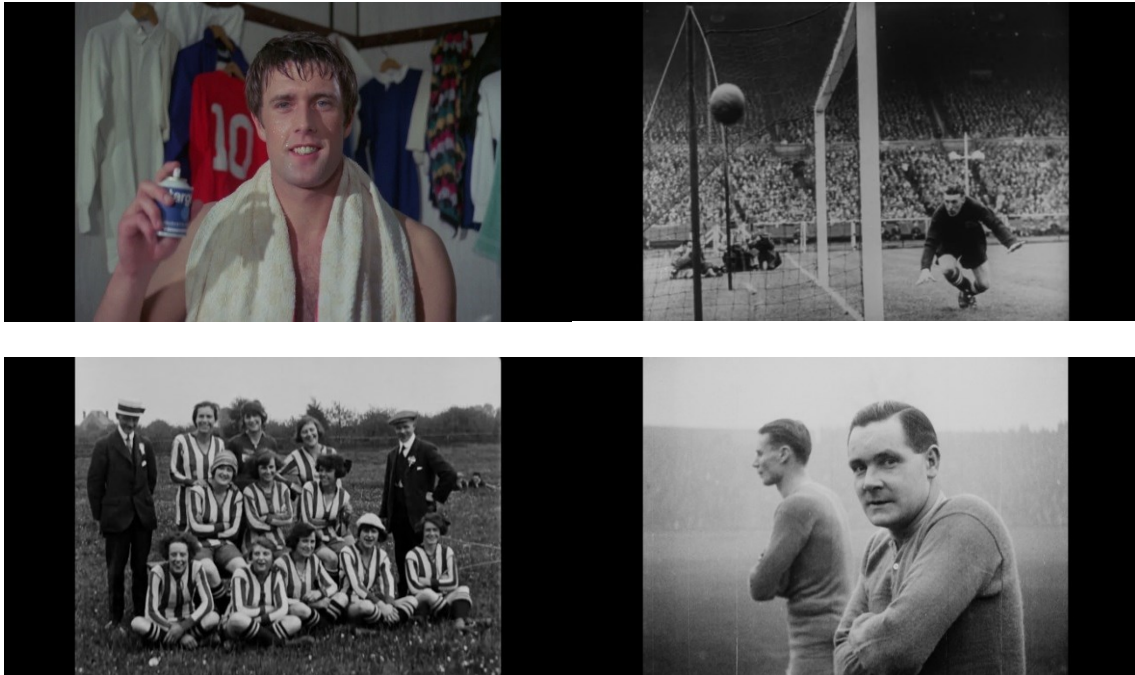


FOOTBALL ON FILM: THE BEAUTIFUL GAME AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE, WITH BRITAIN ON FILM ON BFI PLAYER



I-r from top: Geoff Hurst in Target deodorant ad (1968); Fight for the F.A. Cup (1963); Enfield F.C. v. Ediswan Factory (1925), £6,000 Paid for a Centre Forward (1923)

London, Embargoed until 00.01hrs, 8th December 2015. As the draw for the Third Round of the FA Cup is announced, the BFI is releasing online a new collection of classic, archive football films, with Football on Film on Tuesday 8th December on BFI Player.

<http://player.bfi.org.uk/collections/football-on-film>

The films are all available to view for free and feature more than 120 titles, covering over 70 years of the beautiful game, including some of the earliest ever filmed games, from 1900 to the 1970s, in a rich blend of newsreels, feature films, instructional films, adverts and more. Can you recognise your team?

Greg Dyke, Chair of the BFI, and President of the Football Association said, "Having lived and breathed films and football for the last few years it's brilliant that BFI Player is releasing this collection. It offers a fascinating insight into the history of the beautiful game that everyone in the UK can enjoy. I hope everyone will share this great archive of footballing achievement."

The collection, from the BFI and Regional and National Archives, includes films featuring almost every team from today's top two divisions, alongside a handful of lesser or forgotten sides (remember Gainsborough Trinity, Small Heath or Corinthians?).

This is a fascinating chance to see how your team looked and played in a previous era. Watching the early films from the 1900s, 1910s and 1920s, there are a few obvious differences. The balls were heavier, the shorts longer, and referees wore fetching tweed plus-fours and left goalkeepers to fend for themselves against marauding forwards.

But it's striking how little the game has changed. The fans then are every bit as passionate as today's. The wider issues are familiar too: big money signings caused concern (in 1923, Chelsea invested the then astonishing sum of £6,000 for new centre forward Andy Wilson), while women footballers challenged the male establishment (Dick Kerr's Ladies took on all-comers in the 1920s). Times change, and players - and even teams - come and go, but underneath the beautiful game is much the same as it ever was.

Here's our First Eleven, but there's a hundred more where they came from.

1. **Burnley v Manchester United (1902)**
Oldest film of the Red Devils - taken just months after the club changed its name from Newton Heath.
2. **£6,000 Paid for a Centre Forward (1923)**
Chelsea shell out a princely sum for prolific scorer 'Andy' Wilson - just in time for Christmas.
3. **Alvey: Ashbourne Shrovetide Football '66 (1966)** (*Media Archive for Central England*)
The legendary Sir Stanley Matthews makes a surprise appearance for the annual high-spirited chaos that is Shrovetide football in Ashbourne, Derbyshire.
4. **Caerdydd, Tachwedd 1949 - Cymru 5 Belgium 1 (1949)** (*National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales*)
A stunning victory for Wales in an international friendly at Ninian Park.
5. **Fair Footballers (1925)**
Music hall star George Robey kicks off a women's football International between England and France.
6. **Glasgow Cup Final (1929)**
The Auld Firm face off in a tense draw at Hampden Park.
7. **Mining Review 13th Year No. 7 (1960)**
Miner's Family: a family weekend in Ashington, Northumberland with the footballing Charlton brothers, Bobby, Jack and Gordon.
8. **The Arsenal Stadium Mystery (1939)** (*ITV*)
A Highbury friendly turns unfriendly when a Trojans player is poisoned. This murder mystery features players from both Arsenal and First Division rivals Brentford in the cast.
9. **Nigerian Footballers in England (1949)**
Fascinating record of the first ever UK tour of an African side - an event aimed at challenging racial myths while highlighting the continuing strength of Britain's empire.
10. **Target - Geoff Hurst (1968)**
England's 1966 hat-trick hero is enlisted to advertise a new deodorant.

11. **Exiles v Nomads in the Smallest League in the World** (1980) (*South West Film and Television Archive*)

Penwith Exiles square off against arch-rivals Nomads on the Island of St Mary's in the two-team-strong Isles of Scilly Football League.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Britain on Film is a project from The BFI National Archive and the UK's Regional and National Film Archives

STILLS: A selection of images for journalistic use can be found at www.image.net under
BFI UK Publicity > BFI > Britain on Film > Football

USE OF FOOTAGE: Embed codes for individual films can be used to promote the collection on websites by arrangement with the Press Office

INTERVIEWS: BFI National Archive curator and Football on Film programmer: Gosta Johansson is available for selected interviews

About the BFI

The BFI is the lead organisation for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK - investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI is a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Greg Dyke.

About the BFI National Archive

The BFI National Archive was founded in 1935 and has grown to become the one of the largest and most important collections of film and television in the world with over 180,000 films and 750,000 television programmes. For over 80 years the BFI has been an international leader in film preservation and guardian of Britain's unparalleled film and TV heritage. The BFI is an innovator in presenting films to audiences in new and dynamic ways, from cinemas to film festivals, outdoor events to online video-on-demand. At the heart of all its activities is the BFI's central aim to ensure that everyone in the UK has access to the widest possible range of film and their own film heritage.

That heritage includes all time great British directors Alfred Hitchcock, David Lean and Powell and Pressburger; and the rich vein of documentary filmmaking, in which Britain led the world, including the lyrical work of Humphrey Jennings. The archive also boasts a significant collection of filmmakers' papers as well as extensive stills, posters and production and costume designs along with original scripts, press books and related ephemera.

Expert teams undertake the time-consuming and complex task of restoring films at the BFI John Paul Getty Jr Conservation Centre in Hertfordshire. The BFI's most precious film materials are kept in optimum conditions in the world-leading Master Film Store in Warwickshire.

About the Regional and National Film Archives

The English Regional Film Archives and other National Film Archives (listed below) hold significant collections of film and video material specifically relevant to their regions or hold dedicated collections such as Imperial War Museums, preserved in specialised storage facilities and made widely available for education, research, communities and the wider public.

East Anglian Film Archive

Imperial War Museums

London's Screen Archives

Media Archive for Central England at the University of Lincoln

North East Film Archive

North West Film Archive at Manchester Metropolitan University

Northern Ireland Screen Digital Film Archive

Scottish Screen Archive

Screen Archive South East

South West Film & Television Archive

National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales

Wessex Film and Sound Archive

Yorkshire Film Archive

Press contact:

Brian Robinson, Communications Manager, Archive & Heritage, BFI,

Email: brian.robinson@bfi.org.uk

Tel +44 (0) 207 957 8940

Mobile: 07740 171968



**PRESS
RELEASE**

Judy Wells, Head of Press and PR , BFI

Email: judy.wells@bfi.org.uk

Tel +44 (0) 207 957 8919

Mobile: 07984 180501