



Classic Match

Geoff Barnett despairs as the header by Clarke (out of picture) beats him.

I think I could cry! Forget “third time lucky” – bring on the Champagne! Exactly, no fortune involved here, this was a classic Leeds performance: stifle the opposition, play assured football, and administer the killer blow, a fully justified FA Cup triumph after the devastating defeats of 1965 and 1970.

Surely Arsenal were desperate to retain their Cup? It didn't look like it. Leeds were composed throughout and other than a Charlie George snap shot against the bar in the second half, he and his fellow danger men, Radford and Armstrong, were completely ineffective. Goalkeeper Barnett, in for the injured Bob Wilson, never settled and a confident David Harvey, a late replacement for Sprake, clearly won the battle of the men in green.

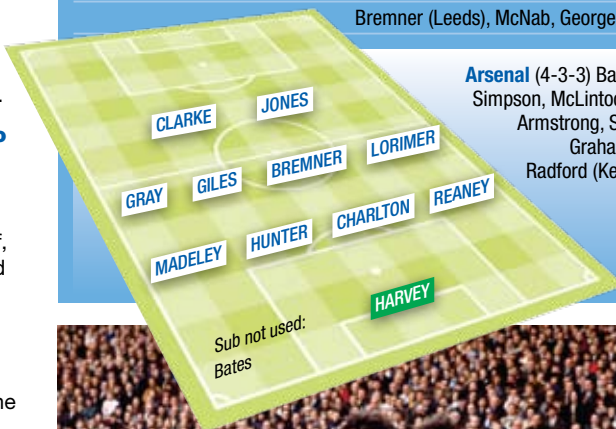
Sounds pretty comfortable? Not exactly, there were niggly fouls in the opening 15 minutes – in fact Allan Clarke “caught” Alan Ball inside the centre-circle after just five seconds! It took us a while to settle, and it was a cagey first half although Clarke somehow connected with a Lorimer volleyed cross and shaved the bar with a header, and at the other end Ball met a corner perfectly first time on the edge of the box and Reaney hacked the ball off the line.

Presumably we turned the screw, second half, and decisively nudged ahead... Good goal? Good?! It was

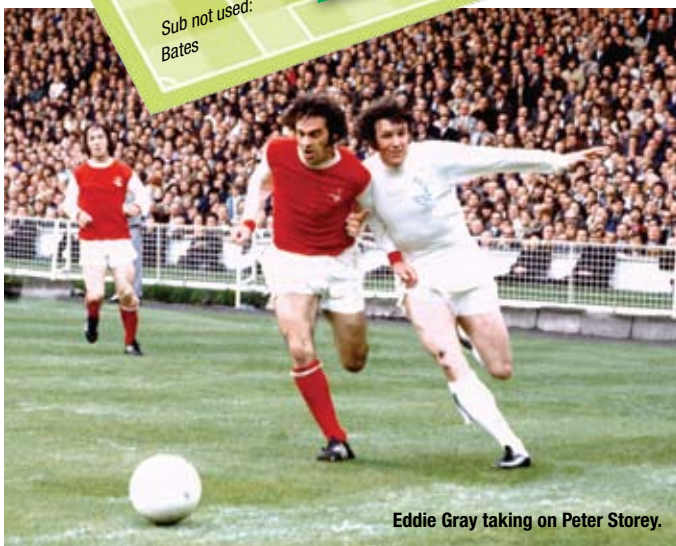
Leeds United 1 Arsenal 0

FA Cup Final Saturday May 6, 3pm Wembley Stadium Attendance 100,000

Goal Clarke (53) Referee David Smith (Gloucestershire) Booked Hunter, Bremner (Leeds), McNab, George (Arsenal)



Arsenal (4-3-3) Barnett, Rice, Simpson, McLintock, McNab, Armstrong, Storey, Ball, Graham, George, Radford (Kennedy 73).



Eddie Gray taking on Peter Storey.

beautiful, like poetry in White shirts! The ball was passed out of defence and Lorimer spread it wide to Mick Jones on the right. "Jonah" took on McNab and raced to the goal-line, somehow he rode a sliding challenge and dug out a deep cross to the penalty spot, and then...

Clarke... 1-0! In typically nonchalant fashion. By rights, Pat Rice should have got to the ball first, but "Sniffer" dived bravely, full length, and connected perfectly with his head. Like a bullet the ball by-passed the helpless Barnett into the far corner. Elegant yet clinical.

After that? Leeds looked like getting a second really, particularly when Lorimer hit the post, but late on we just packed defence and Arsenal never looked like getting through.

Joy unconfined at the final whistle then? A mixture of ecstasy and confusion, in truth. In the last seconds of injury-time Jones collided innocuously with Barnett, but managed to dislocate his shoulder. At the final whistle, as the crowd and his team-mates erupted in elation, Jones was alone by the goal-line writhing in agony. It took a minute or so for Revie to notice his prostrate striker before racing over, and it sums up the great man that he missed his team finally lifting the cup to help administer treatment to the ashen-faced Jones. Strapped with bandages by Les Cocker, Jonah was helped up the steps by Norman Hunter to collect his medal from



Les Cocker tends to the injured Mick Jones.

1 Magic Number

Our first FA Cup secured by one goal.



Don Revie

the Queen, who was clearly bemused and astonished by his bravery.

What of the post-match celebrations? With one eye on Monday's title-decider against Wolves, Leeds raced around the outer perimeter but milked the applause from both sets of fans. As is the peculiar trait of the elated footballer, Sniffer wore the cup's lid on his head for the duration, and in his shoes, who can honestly say they wouldn't do the same?

Comedy moments? The preposterous coloured boots worn by Alan Ball (white) and Charlie George (red), surely a hopeless trend that will never catch on?! Also, Alan Ball's face after Billy had clearly wound him up during a late skirmish... as Billy strolled off hiding a smirk, Ball's mug was as red as his hair.

How were the Leeds fans? Loud and colourful throughout, they packed the tunnel end of Wembley. Having enjoyed the pre-match pageant with flags of all previous FA Cup winners commemorating the centenary of the first final, they also received souvenir footballs kicked into the crowd by the Leeds players as they walked out of the tunnel, an unexpected gift and typical of Revie's "new Leeds".

Best Leeds player? Everyone played a part. Billy was immense and the back four unified impeccably to soak up Arsenal's forlorn pressure – but it has to be Sniffer for his goal and unselfish running.

In a nutshell? Here's to many more!

Jon Howe



Matchwinner Allan Clarke parades the trophy.