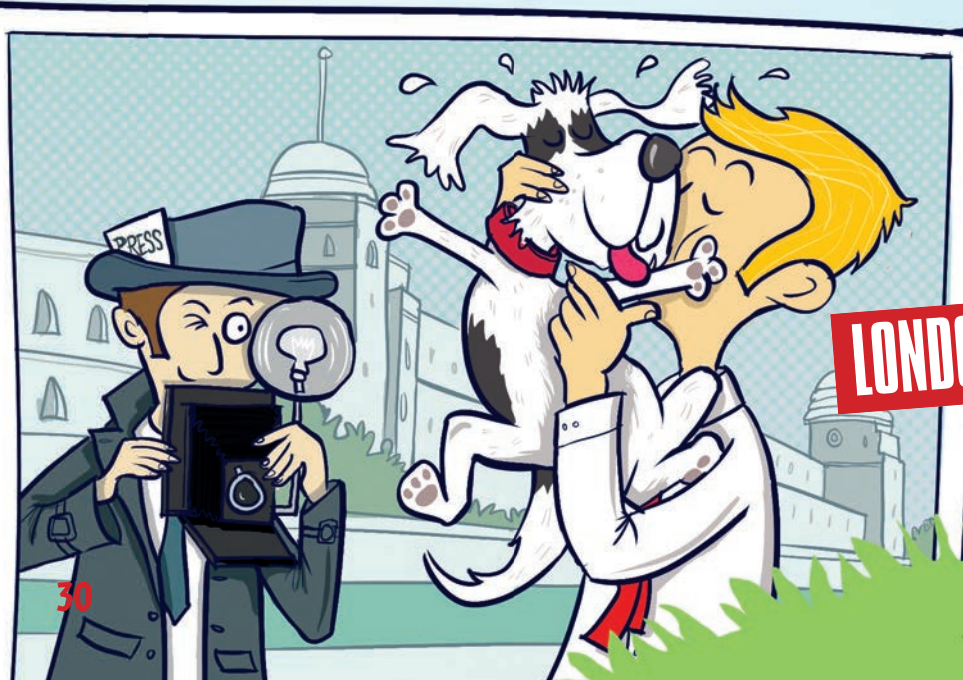


THE DOG THAT FOUND THE 1966 WORLD CUP!

Have you ever heard about the time English football got itself in a bit of a pickle, and was saved by an unlikely four-legged hero?



LONDON 1966





1. WORLD CUP EXCITEMENT

England has only ever hosted the **World Cup** once, when they won it in **1966**, but they very nearly didn't have a trophy to lift after the final! Forget **Geoff Hurst**, who scored a hat-trick in the final, or England skipper **Bobby Moore**. The real hero of the tournament was a collie named **Pickles**, who is now the **most famous dog in football**.

Let's go back to **March 1966**, and stadiums across England were preparing to host the World Cup that summer. To add to the excitement, the shiny **trophy** was put on public display in **central London**.



2. BURGLAR ALARM!

On the second day of the exhibition, disaster struck. Security guards returned from a break to find that a **sneaky thief** had **stolen** the trophy and **disappeared**. The shocking news spread around the world.

Two days later the chairman of **the FA**, who are in charge of football in England, received a letter. It was from the **robbers**, and said that if the chairman didn't pay a huge ransom, or went to the **police**, they would **melt the gold trophy down**.

The chairman handed the letter to the police anyway, and they **investigated**. But soon someone had sniffed out what they were looking for!



3. WHAT A DOG'S DINNER

In south London, **Pickles the dog** was out for a walk. He was sniffing around, as dogs do, when he found something interesting under a **hedge**. His owner pulled out a **package**, unwrapped it and couldn't believe what he saw: the **World Cup trophy** shining back at him! The pair took it straight to the **police**.

As the saviour of the World Cup, **Pickles** became a national hero – and a few months later so did **Bobby Moore**, as he lifted that trophy at **Wembley**. Both attended a **victory feast** and, from a balcony, Moore lifted Pickles up in front of the **celebrating** crowds.

Dinner with the team is not a bad way to celebrate your country's **World Cup** win – and they even let **Pickles** lick his owner's bowl clean!

