

# NET

FROM HEADERS AND HOOFS TO CURLERS AND CHIPS, RELIVE THE BEST

# GAINS

Words ALISON RATCLIFFE

44



## DIVING HEADER

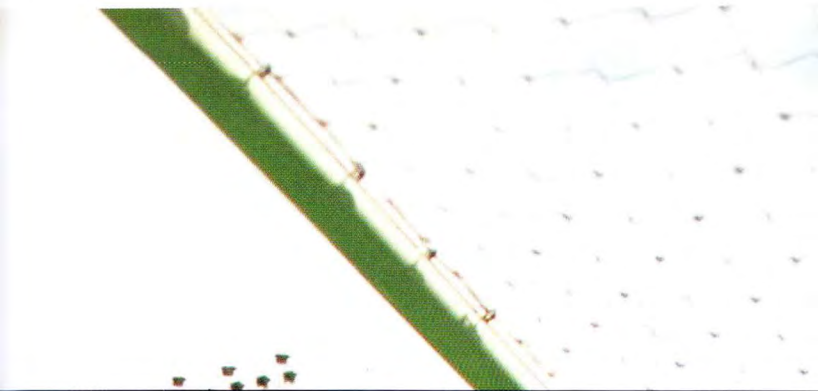
**Keith Houchen, 63 mins**

COVENTRY CITY 3-2 TOTTENHAM  
HOTSPUR, 1987

"I never took my eyes off the ball. Perfect ball, perfect run, perfect timing. Like a dance," says Houchen. Steve Ogrizovic's clearance, Cyrille Regis's flick-on, Houchen's pass setting up Dave Bennett's hurtling cross, Houchen's header like an Eric Bristow dart: 2-2. "One punch changes the whole thing." Gary Mabbutt's own goal finally sunk Spurs - Hoddle, Waddle and all.







## GOALS IN FA CUP FINAL HISTORY



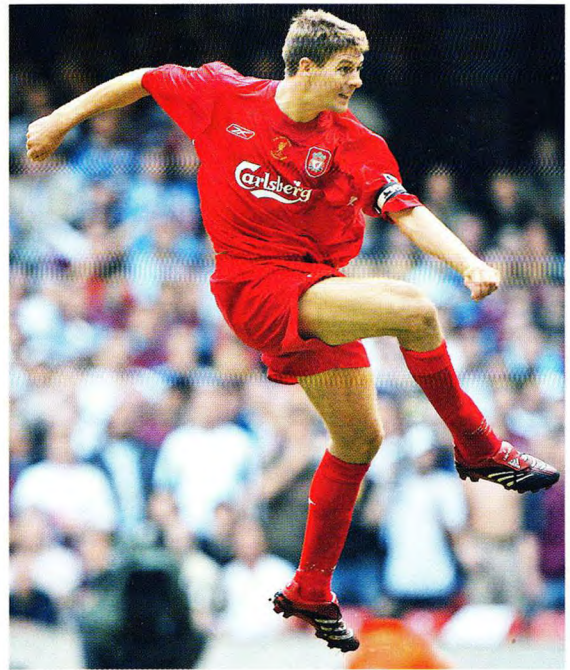
### INDIVIDUAL GOAL

**Ricky Villa, 76 mins**

**TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 3-2**

MANCHESTER CITY, 1981 REPLAY

"There is not enough money in the world to buy that moment. I called it a South American goal in England." Six City players in the box; Villa wisped through and round them like smoke to slip the ball under the 'keeper for the winner. Being substituted in the original match fired Villa up: he also scored the opener in the replay and made the 100th FA Cup Final one of the greatest in history.



### SCREAMER

**Steven Gerrard, 90+1 mins**

**LIVERPOOL 3-3 WEST HAM UNITED, 2006**

(LIVERPOOL WON ON PENALTIES)

By the time the Fourth Assistant's board went up, Gerrard had 56 matches and 90 minutes behind him. The PA announced Liverpool had four minutes to rectify their 3-2 deficit. The ball bobbled wearily out to 37 yards from the goal... Gerrard's right boot drove through its core, scorching a path into the bottom corner. "If my legs hadn't been riddled with cramp, I would have brought the ball down and tried to build an attack," he said. ☒

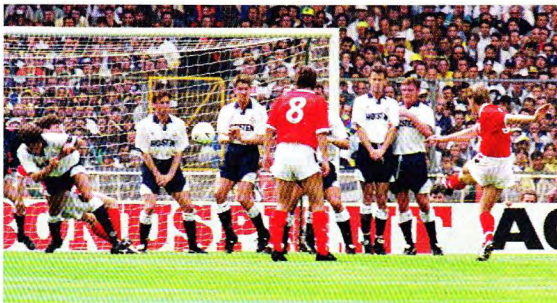




**OWN GOAL**  
**Des Walker, 90+4 mins**  
 TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 2-1

NOTTINGHAM FOREST, 1991

Had Paul Gascoigne not sabotaged his cruciates, substitute Nayim might not have taken the corner that was flicked to the far post and angled beautifully into the top corner – by Des Walker. “There were 40,000 Forest fans and it just went quiet,” remembers Walker, who’d tried to intercept a lurking Gary Mabbutt. Spurs were in front for the first time and Walker’s error ultimately took The Cup back to White Hart Lane.



**FREE-KICK**  
**Stuart Pearce, 16 mins**  
 TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 2-1

NOTTINGHAM FOREST, 1991

No swerve, just a showcase of mathematical straightness and stinging speed. After hobbling to join the end of the wall, Gascoigne saw Pearce score the free-kick he’d conceded. But Spurs still won and Pearce was forlorn, “I can’t celebrate defeat. I just want to go home,” he said.





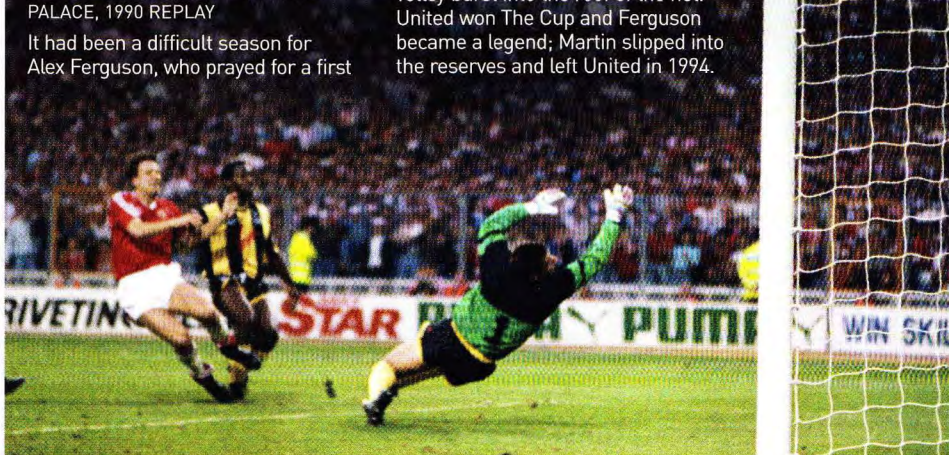


## DEFENDER'S GOAL

**Lee Martin, 59 mins**  
**MANCHESTER UNITED 1-0 CRYSTAL PALACE, 1990 REPLAY**

It had been a difficult season for Alex Ferguson, who prayed for a first

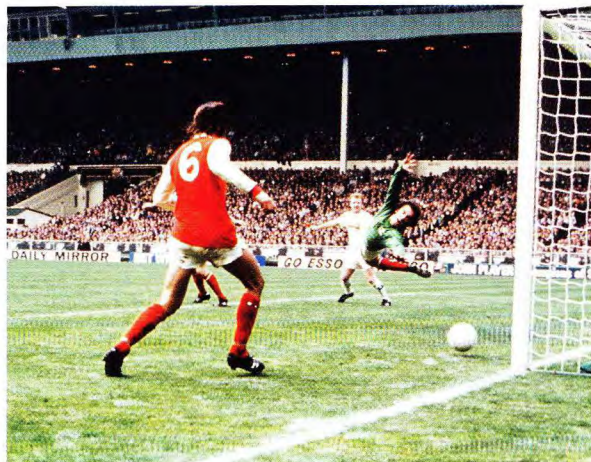
trophy at Manchester United. Cometh the hour, Lee Martin ran the length of the pitch, Neil Webb looked up and swept a precise pass across-field to meet the left-back on the edge of the area. He chested down and his half-volley burst into the roof of the net. United won The Cup and Ferguson became a legend; Martin slipped into the reserves and left United in 1994.



## HEADER

**Allan Clarke, 53 mins**  
**LEEDS UNITED 1-0 ARSENAL, 1972**

"I'd rather have you playing on one leg than anyone else with two," Don Revie said after Clarke's fitness test before the Centenary Final. Clarke used both to stand on as he blazed a 15-yard header into the far corner beyond the flailing Geoff Barnett in the Arsenal goal.



## TEAM EFFORT

**Kevin Keegan, 88 mins**  
**LIVERPOOL 3-0 NEWCASTLE UNITED, 1974**

"A beautiful ball to Smith. He didn't have to move to get it. Hall to Smith. Heighway. Liverpool showing their party pieces. He wasn't offside. Smith ... yes! Keegan's second and Newcastle were undressed! They were absolutely stripped naked!" Thus commentator David Coleman described a 13-pass move that serpentine across the final third. It was Liverpool's third, and Keegan's second goal in a match where Newcastle had looked bare from the start.



## CHIP

**Ray Wilkins, 72 mins**  
**MANCHESTER UNITED 2-2 BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION, 1983**

(UNITED WON THE REPLAY 4-0) Wilkins underplays his goal, "It pales into insignificance compared to the win [in the replay]." He seemed almost reluctant to score, cutting in, looking for a pass. But back-up was late arriving; he would just have to plump for a manicured 20-yard chip, dropping feather-light into the back of Graham Moseley's net: 2-1. Gary Stevens forced a replay but, on the Thursday, Brighton capitulated. ❏





## DISPUTED

**Jack Allen, 38 mins**

NEWCASTLE UNITED 2-1 ARSENAL, 1932

Dave Davidson's long ball was too long for inside-right Jimmy Richardson, who hooked his cross in from just beyond the byline. The Arsenal defence relaxed and Jack Allen headed home as they expected. The equaliser stood. Missing their figurehead Alex James, Herbert Chapman's Arsenal succumbed to a second Allen goal, losing 2-1 in the 'Over the Line Final'.





## REBOUND

**Jeff Astle, 93 mins** WEST  
BROMWICH ALBION 1-0 EVERTON, 1968

"One kick, one goal. We kidded him that, if he hadn't scored, he would have had the lowest mark ever in *The People*," says Astle's team-mate Bobby Hope. Two kicks, in fact: Astle's right-footed shot had come back off a team-mate's backside. No watching Martian would have guessed his left was his weakest as he pummelled the rebound into the top corner to score in every round.



## VOLLEY

**Steve MacKenzie, 11 mins**

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 3-2  
MANCHESTER CITY, 1981 REPLAY

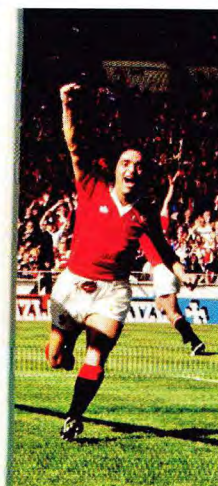
Ray Ranson floated the ball into the box. It flicked from Spurs defenders' heads on to City midfielder Tommy Hutchison. His feather-cushion header hovered in the D in front of MacKenzie's swinging boot... and the ball arced into the top corner.



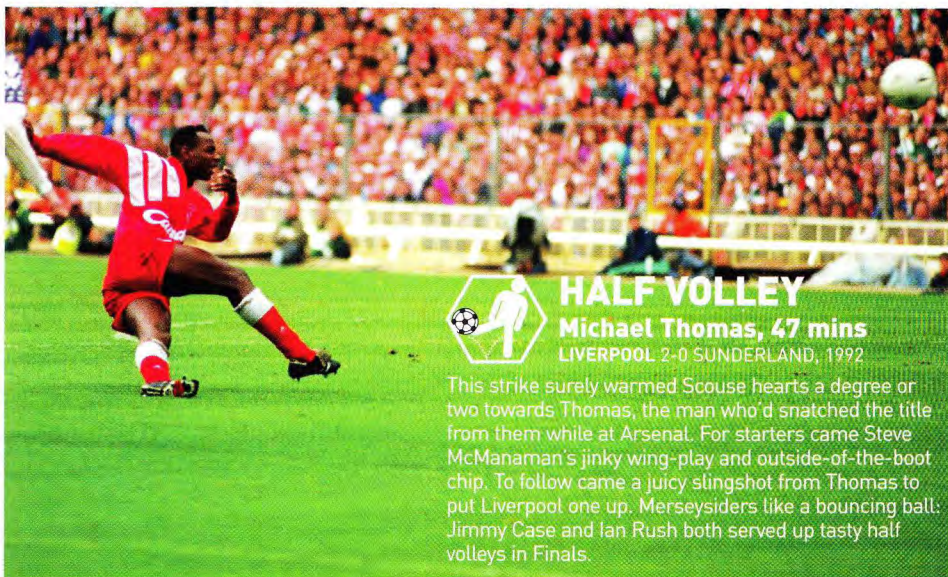
## ROUTE ONE

**Bobby Johnstone, 68 mins**  
MANCHESTER CITY 3-1 BIRMINGHAM CITY, 1956

Reporters extolled the patterns of Manchester City's Hungarian flavoured passing, spun around deep-lying Don Revie. City's clincher left the boot of goalkeeper Bert Trautmann, landed yards outside Birmingham's box, was nudged on by Jack Dyson and launched into the net by Johnstone.



67



## HALF VOLLEY

**Michael Thomas, 47 mins**  
LIVERPOOL 2-0 SUNDERLAND, 1992

This strike surely warmed Scouse hearts a degree or two towards Thomas, the man who'd snatched the title from them while at Arsenal. For starters came Steve McManaman's jinky wing-play and outside-of-the-boot chip. To follow came a juicy slingshot from Thomas to put Liverpool one up. Merseysiders like a bouncing ball. Jimmy Case and Ian Rush both served up tasty half volleys in Finals.



## FLUKE

**Jimmy Greenhoff, 55 mins**  
MANCHESTER UNITED  
2-1 LIVERPOOL, 1977

The width of Jimmy Greenhoff's backside. By such a margin was Liverpool's Treble lost. "At the time I believed I'd hit the ball cleanly and it'd sailed into the net," says Lou Macari. "My shot hit Jimmy to leave Ray Clemence wrong-footed and put us 2-1 in front. It would probably have hit the power station behind Wembley if Jim hadn't got in the way." Similar strokes of luck also won The Cup in 1971 and 1927. □