



Our Guest of Honour – Sir Geoff Hurst MBE

We are very honoured to be able to welcome Sir Geoff Hurst MBE to Leighton United for the official opening of our clubhouse. Many of our youngsters will not appreciate that he has the honour of being one of the most famous players ever to have played for his country. His career is what dreams are made of.

His legendary hat-trick against West Germany in the 1966 World Cup final, which remains the only hat-trick scored in a final, culminating with those famous words "Some people are on the pitch...they think it's all over... IT IS NOW!" has secured his place in England's hall of fame. Hurst's second goal in the final was one of the most

controversial in World Cup history when his shot hit the crossbar and bounced over the line.

Hurst's international debut was against West Germany, only five months before the World Cup. He had initially started out as a midfielder, before becoming one of the most feared strikers in the English game. Geoff also appeared in the 1970 World Cup; he won 49 caps and scored 24 during his time with England.

He was born in 1941 and made his first-team debut for West Ham against Nottingham Forest, just after his 18th birthday. Hurst went on to make his name with West Ham, where he made 499 appearances, scoring 248 goals. One of the highlights came during a league game against Sunderland when he netted six goals. He was player of the year three times, won The FA Cup in 1964, the European Cup Winners Cup in 1965 and the Football League Cup runners-up medal in 1966. His best ever goal-scoring tally came during the 1966/67 season when he netted 41 goals.

In 1972 he moved to Stoke City, where he scored 30 goals in 100 appearances and then moved to West Brom before spending a year in the USA with the Seattle Sounders. He managed Chelsea and Telford United and assisted with the national squad.

Sir Geoff received his knighthood in 1998. He now promotes the Grassroots game as McDonald's Director of Football whose community coaching programme is playing a major role in increasing the standards of coaching and development in UK football.



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