



PUTTING THE BOOT(S) IN!

Wimbledon in Sporting History are always keen to bring Dons-related memorabilia back home to the Cherry Red Records Stadium, Plough Lane. Among the methods used

for discovering rare items is leaving several search reminders online.

This can produce hundreds of alerts and notifications – many of them spurious – but occasionally, they come up trumps, as was the case with a pair of football

boots worn by a member of the Wimbledon team that reached an Amateur Cup Final.

Managing Director John Lynch explains how they were acquired: "I found them for sale on the Facebook marketplace. I checked the

surname, sent a message asking about the history and was told they were found in a loft wrapped in an old newspaper from the time and belonged to the seller's grandfather – Bert Bridge – and that they might also have been worn by his brother Dick, also a former Wimbledon player.

"Everything seemed to fit, so I made an offer on behalf of the Museum and they were delighted to see them go to a good home!"

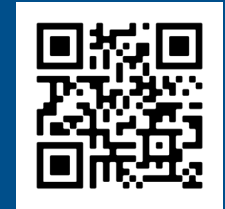
If you think the name Bert Bridge rings a bell, he was one of the players featured in the Hall of Fame voting and the career of Herbert Henry 'Bert' Bridge was a colourful one. He made nearly 200 first-team appearances in a 13-year association as a player, commencing in 1930, but interrupted by spending much of 1937 working in Iran as a draughtsman, then by four years of WWII.

Often playing in defence alongside his brother, Bert featured in three Isthmian League Championship seasons, the 1935 Amateur Cup Final (and replay), an FA Cup tie against Norwich City at Plough Lane and also helped the Dons to win the wartime Surrey Senior Cup in 1940, before retiring six years later at the age of 37 without scoring a single goal!

So these boots certainly saw some action and we are delighted to have them, complete with some Plough Lane mud.

If you have anything you think may be of interest that you are willing to loan or donate to the Club, please pop into the Museum on a matchday or contact us by email via info@wimbledoninsportinghistory.co.uk and we'll get back to you.

Also if you are in a position to leave a small donation to us, which will help with future projects, please do so by using the QR code:



All of us at WISH thank you for your support over the past year, and for all of you that celebrate it, we hope you are enjoying the festive period.

