



Mick Mahon: A Double Cup Hero

"A peerless orthodox winger, who could create and score goals," sums up Mick Mahon. Manchester-born Mahon was spotted by Sir Stanley Matthews (no mean winger himself) when Mick was a trainee PE teacher at Loughborough College, having already gained three England Amateur international caps.

However it was a move to Colchester United that ignited Mahon's career as he played in the U's famous 3-2 FA Cup victory over Leeds United at Layer Road. When manager Dick Graham took the Wimbledon job a year later, he persuaded the SW19 board to pay a then record £3,000 transfer fee to bring the Colchester Player of the Year to Plough Lane. It was money well spent.



Mahon's trusty left foot notched 41 goals in 122 Wimbledon appearances and included a double strike in the last minute against Atherstone to turn a 2-1 deficit into a 3-2 victory and even more special was one of the finest goals to grace Plough Lane, as he unleashed a 30-yarder into the top corner for another late winner – against Bath City, during the Dons' epic FA Cup run of 1974/75. But the best was



yet to come. In Round Three he swept home the only goal of the game against Burnley at Turf Moor as Wimbledon became the first non-league club to win away at top flight opposition for 46 years.

The victory set up a mouth-watering tie at champions Leeds United – the Manchester City of their time, with a star-studded squad – and they fielded a full-strength side at Elland Road which sadly Mick sat out after contracting glandular fever, although BBC Radio managed to run a telephone line into his bedroom so he could be a pundit from his sickbed! Happily Mick made a swift recovery and played in the replay at Selhurst Park.

With the travelling from Essex and increased job demands taking their toll, Mick – who was inducted into the Colchester United Hall of Fame in 2009 – retired to concentrate on teaching and later ran the Alpine Villa B&B with his wife Cherida for many years. Following contact made by Ray Armfield, Head of



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Wimbledon Old Players Association (WOPA), Mick is here today as our guest of honour, together with his son and grandson.

Mick, we hope you and your family enjoy the game today!

