

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER FOOTBALL'S MOST TREASURED PRIZE – THE F.A. CUP



The Football Association Challenge Cup

THE OLDEST EXISTING F.A. CUP HIGHLIGHTS THE MAY SALE OF FOOTBALL MEMORABILIA

Football Memorabilia
19 May 2005

South Kensington, London – Arguably the most important item of football history ever to be offered at auction, the second and oldest existing example of the F.A. Cup, will highlight Christie's sale of *Football Memorabilia* on 19 May 2005 (estimate: £200,000-300,000). This cup is the actual trophy presented to winning teams between 1896 and 1910 - and was lofted in victory as Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur, Newcastle United, Everton, Nottingham Forest and Manchester City won the competition for the first time. This cup had replaced the original trophy which was stolen from a shop window in Birmingham and never recovered.

The History of the Football Association Cup

On 20 July 1871, during a meeting at the offices of *The Sportsman* in London, the Football Association's Honorary Secretary, Charles Alcock, stated that it was 'desirable that a Challenge Cup should be established in connection with the Association, for which all clubs belonging to the association should be invited to compete'. The first competition took place on 16 March, 1872, and was won by Wanderers in front of a crowd of 2,000 people. Today the F.A. Cup is the biggest domestic cup competition in the world and the F.A. Cup Final attracts a global audience of up to 600 million viewers in 70 countries.

A dramatic theft in 1895

In 1895, Aston Villa won the competition for the second time beating West Bromwich Albion 1 – 0. However in November 1895, during an F.A. Committee meeting, the club had to report that the Cup had been stolen from the shop window of William Shillcock, a football and boot manufacturer in Birmingham which had been proudly displaying the trophy. Although a £10 reward was offered to anyone who could recover the trophy, it was never seen again. Instead, Aston Villa F. C. was fined £25 which covered the cost for a trophy 'as nearly as possible like the old cup'. This replacement, which was presented to Lord Kinnaird in 1911 to commemorate his 21st anniversary as President of the Football Association, will be offered at Christie's on 19 May 2005.

The Legend of Lord Kinnaird

The Rt. Hon. Arthur Fitz-Gerald Kinnaird, later Lord Kinnaird, was one of the most influential and colourful characters that Football has known. Born in 1847, and having attended Eton and then Trinity College, Cambridge, Kinnaird went on to play in nine F.A. Cup Finals between 1873 and 1883. He also represented Scotland in an International match against England in 1873 and, in retirement, was instrumental in the formation of the Football Association, developing the game we know and love today. As well as playing in a number of positions on the field, from goalkeeper to forward, Kinnaird was an instantly recognisable player as a result of his distinctive kit: long white trousers, a quartered cap and a flowing red beard! In the F.A. Cup Final of 1882, as Kinnaird captained the Old Etonians team to victory over Blackburn Rovers, he celebrated by performing a handstand in front of the pavilion to a standing ovation from the crowd. His popularity grew so much that, prior to one FA Cup Final, members of the crowd released the horses from his carriage and pulled Kinnaird themselves the last few hundred yards to the pitch at the Kennington Oval.

In 1890, Kinnaird was appointed President of the Football Association succeeding Sir Francis 'The Major' Marindin. His impact and influence was such that in 1911, to celebrate his 21st anniversary as President, the Football Association presented him with the Football Association Challenge Cup. His stewardship through the turn of the century had seen the competition grow from a collection of amateur teams playing in front of crowds of 2,000, to a well-organised competition regularly watched by over 100,000 spectators. In many ways, Kinnaird nurtured football to become the people's game. His modest nature ensured that he saw differently. *I believe all right-minded people have good reason to thank God for the great progress of this popular national game.* Lord Kinnaird remained President of the Football Association for 33 years. He died on 30th January 1923 at the age of 75.

The Third and Fourth F.A. Cups to the Present Day

The newly designed third trophy, introduced from the 1910-11 Competition, was in use until the F.A. Cup Final of 1990-91. It was then put into honourable retirement and remains at the Football Association Headquarters at Soho Square, London. The fourth and current trophy, an exact replica of the third, has been in service since the FA Cup Final of 1991-92.

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Email Images available on request
Visit Christie's online at www.christies.com

Notes to editors:

- WINNERS OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP 1895-1910

Teams highlighted in bold are first-time winners of the Competition.

Season	Participating Teams	Score	Attendance
1895-96	Sheffield Wednesday v Wolverhampton Wanderers	2 – 1	48,000
1896-97	Aston Villa v Everton	3 – 2	65,000
1897-98	Nottingham Forest v Derby County	3 – 1	62,000
1898-99	Sheffield United v Derby County	4 – 1	73,000
1899-1900	Bury v Southampton	4 – 0	68,000
1900-01	Tottenham Hotspur v Sheffield United	3 – 1 (replay)	110,000
1901-02	Sheffield United v Southampton	2 – 1 (replay)	76,000
1902-03	Bury v Derby County	6 – 0	63,000
1903-04	Manchester City v Bolton Wanderers	1 – 0	61,000
1904-05	Aston Villa v Newcastle United	2 – 0	101,000
1905-06	Everton v Newcastle United	1 – 0	75,000
1906-07	Sheffield Wednesday v Everton	2 – 1	84,000
1907-08	Wolverhampton Wanderers v Newcastle United	3 – 1	74,000
1908-09	Manchester United v Bristol City	1 – 0	67,000
1909-10	Newcastle United v Barnsley	2 – 0 (replay)	77,000

- TOP 10 PRICES FOR FOOTBALL MEMORABILIA AT CHRISTIE'S

Christie's have been holding sales dedicated to Football Memorabilia since 1989, and currently hold two annual sales at their salerooms in South Kensington, London. The following list shows the Top 10 prices realised for Football Memorabilia at Christie's.

1.	March 2002	Pele's shirt from the 1970 World Cup Final	£157,750
WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR A FOOTBALL SHIRT AT AUCTION			
2.	November 1996	Part of the Collection awarded to Wolverhampton Wanderers and England Captain Billy Wright	£134,550
3.	March 2001	1966 World Cup Winner's medal awarded to Gordon Banks	£124,750
WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR A FOOTBALL MEDAL AT AUCTION			
4.	October 1993	Collection of medals, caps and shirts awarded to Ray Kennedy	£101,200
5.	September 2000	Geoff Hurst's red football shirt from the 1966 World Cup Final	£91,750
6.	March 2002	1966 World Cup Winner's medal awarded to Ray Wilson	£80,750
7.	September 2004	Pele's shirt from the 1958 World Cup Final	£70,505
8.	October 1997	19 lots awarded to Danny Blanchflower	£50,600
9.	March 2004	Bobby Moore's shirt from the 1970 World Cup Semi-Final v Brazil	£59,750
10.	March 2003	Charles Ernest Cundall (1890-1971), <i>A cup tie at Crystal Palace, Corinthians v. Manchester City</i> , oil on panel	£49,350