

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Matthew Paton

020 7389 2965

mpaton@christies.com

GEORGE COHEN'S 1966 WORLD CUP FINAL SHIRT LEADS CHRISTIE'S SUMMER SALE OF SPORTING MEMORABILIA

Traditional Sports and World Cup Memorabilia
27 June 2006, South Kensington



South Kensington – Christie's announce that the shirt worn by George Cohen during the World Cup Final of 1966 will lead the sale of *Traditional Sports and World Cup Memorabilia* on 27 June 2006. A rare relic from English football's finest hour, Cohen swapped the shirt with Lothar Emmerich, a winger in the defeated West German team, in whose family possession it has remained to this day. It is expected to realise £15,000-20,000. The summer sale will also include approximately 200 items of cricket, boxing, tennis and golf memorabilia, including the Renshaw Cup won by Fred Perry at Wimbledon in 1936, the last time a British player won the singles title (estimate: £25,000-£30,000).

George Cohen (b. London, 1939) won thirty seven caps for England between 1964 and 1967 and played in all six of England's matches in the 1966 FIFA World Cup Tournament. He spent his entire playing career at Fulham and made 459 appearances for the London side before retiring through injury at the age of twenty nine. Described by George Best as '*the best full back I ever played against*', Cohen was one of five players from the England team of 1966 to receive an MBE in 2000. His 1966 World Cup final shirt has been in German possession for forty years, having been swapped with Lothar Emmerich at the end of the match.



Another highlight of the sale is a Martin Peters spare shirt for the World Cup final of 1966 (estimate: £1,000-1,500), which bears the number 16 as well as an England badge, which has been sewn onto the breast by the kit room in preparation for match use. The shirt is thought to have been given to the England team's bus driver,



Sid Brown, by England captain Bobby Moore at the same time that Moore passed his own spare shirt to England coach Harold Sheperdson. This World Cup section of the sale will also offer the 1970 FIFA World Cup winner's medal awarded to Everaldo, who played in defence for a Brazilian team that is widely considered to be the greatest ever in the history of the competition (estimate: £35,000-45,000). The 1970 World Cup was held in Mexico; Brazil beat England, Romania and Czechoslovakia in the group stages before victories against Peru then Uruguay saw them to the Final. On 21 June 1970, Brazil defeated Italy 4-1 and won the World Cup for the third time, also winning the right to keep the Jules Rimet trophy forever.

Further highlights include the shirt worn by Argentina defender Julio Olarticoechea in the 1986 World Cup final against West Germany which Argentina won 3-2 (estimate: £3,000-5,000), together with his 1986 FIFA World Cup winner's medal (estimate: £20,000-30,000) and a 1930 FIFA World Cup third-place medal awarded to Thomas Florie, the captain of the USA team who were beaten by Argentina in the semi-finals of the first ever World Cup competition (estimate: £10,000-15,000). Another highlight from the early history of the Tournament is a rare and important bronze plaque presented to '*the Father of the World Cup*' Jules Rimet by the French Football Federation in July 1931 (estimate: £15,000-20,000). Jules Rimet was President of FIFA between 1921 and 1954 and is responsible for the instigation and development of what is now the biggest sporting event in the World.



The tennis section of the sale is led by the Renshaw Cup won by Fred Perry at Wimbledon in 1936, the last time a British player won the singles title (estimate: £25,000-30,000). This was the third year in succession that Perry had won the Singles title and he did not concede a single set in any of the Finals. Perry was the only man to have achieved a hat-trick of Wimbledon Singles titles until Bjorn Borg matched his feat in 1978. Also on offer is the 1971 Women's Doubles trophy won by Billie-Jean King at Wimbledon which carries an estimate of £3,000-5,000. The golf section is led by *Altoon Links, Aberdeen* by John Smart, R.S.A. (1838-1899), an imposing watercolour depicting a pair of golfers accompanied by

young caddies on the 'Old town' links in Aberdeen, with the distinctive spires of St. Machar's Cathedral and King's College visible in the urban skyline (estimate: £50,000-70,000).

The cricket section of the sale will offer a variety of rare and unusual items from the 'golden age' of the sport. *The Bardswell Bat*, which is reputed to have been used by W.G. Grace, was presented to Gerald Barswell, who played cricket for Lancashire from 1894 to 1902 (estimate: £8,000-12,000). Gerald's aunt, Emily Bardswell, was



a devoted fan of the sport and used the bat to collect the signatures of 169 prominent players, including W.G. Grace, Prince Ranjitsinhji, Lord Hawke, C.B. Fry and every player from the Australian tour to England in 1899 as well as the South African's first ever visit in 1907. An extraordinary copy of *The Jubilee Book of Cricket* by Prince Ranjitsinhji will also be offered at the sale. William Clifton, a keen cricket fan, bought the book in the 1920s and systematically sent letters to every player, coach and figure of cricket who featured in its pages. As a result, the book is presented in six volumes and contains over 2,100 signatures and over 400 letters from leading cricketers from the 19th and early 20th century (estimate: £60,000-80,000). Further highlights include one of the oldest known artifacts to depict the game of cricket - a George III silver

child's christening mug dated 1771 (estimate: £3,000-5,000) – and Australian Ray Lindwall's baggy green cap from the Ashes series of 1950/51, when Australia defeated the English 4-1 (estimate: £2,000-3,000).

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Images available on request

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Notes to Editors:

- TOP 3 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. Christie's also hold annual sales of Cricket, Tennis and Golf memorabilia.

The following list shows the Top 3 prices realised for Football Memorabilia at Christie's:

19 May 2005	The FA Challenge Cup (1896-1910), presented to Lord Kinaird	£478,400
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WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR FOOTBALL MEMORABILIA AT AUCTION

19 May 2005	A 1966 World Cup Winner's medal awarded to Alan Ball, MBE	£164,800
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WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR A FOOTBALL MEDAL AT AUCTION

March 2002	Pele's shirt from the 1970 World Cup Final	£157,750
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WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR A FOOTBALL SHIRT AT AUCTION

- In September 2000, Geoff Hurst's red football shirt from the 1966 World Cup Final was sold at Christie's for £91,750 and in May 2005, a blue 1966 World Cup International cap awarded to Alan Ball, MBE sold for £43,200, the world record price for a football cap at auction.

- The sale of *Traditional Sports and World Cup Memorabilia* will be on public view at Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London, SW7 3LD from 24 to 27 June. For exact viewing times see www.christies.com

- On 30 July 1966, England walked out to face the West German team in front of 96,924 fans at Wembley for their first and only ever World Cup Final. Having conceded an early goal, English hopes were restored when Geoff Hurst scored to equalize and then, with twelve minutes to play, Martin Peters gave them the lead. The Germans scrambled an equalizer just before the final whistle to level the score at 2-2 and send the match to extra time. In the one hundredth minute, encouraged by a home crowd and subject to a fortunate decision from the Russian linesman, a shot from Geoff Hurst was deemed to have crossed the line after hitting the crossbar giving the English the lead. With seconds left to play, as Kenneth Wolstenhome uttered his now-iconic commentary '*Some people are on the pitch, they think it's all over...*', Geoff Hurst smashed the ball into the German goal and became the first and only player to score a hat-trick in the World Cup Final, as Wolstenhome exclaimed '*it is now!*'.