



1970s - Changing Times



Goal!

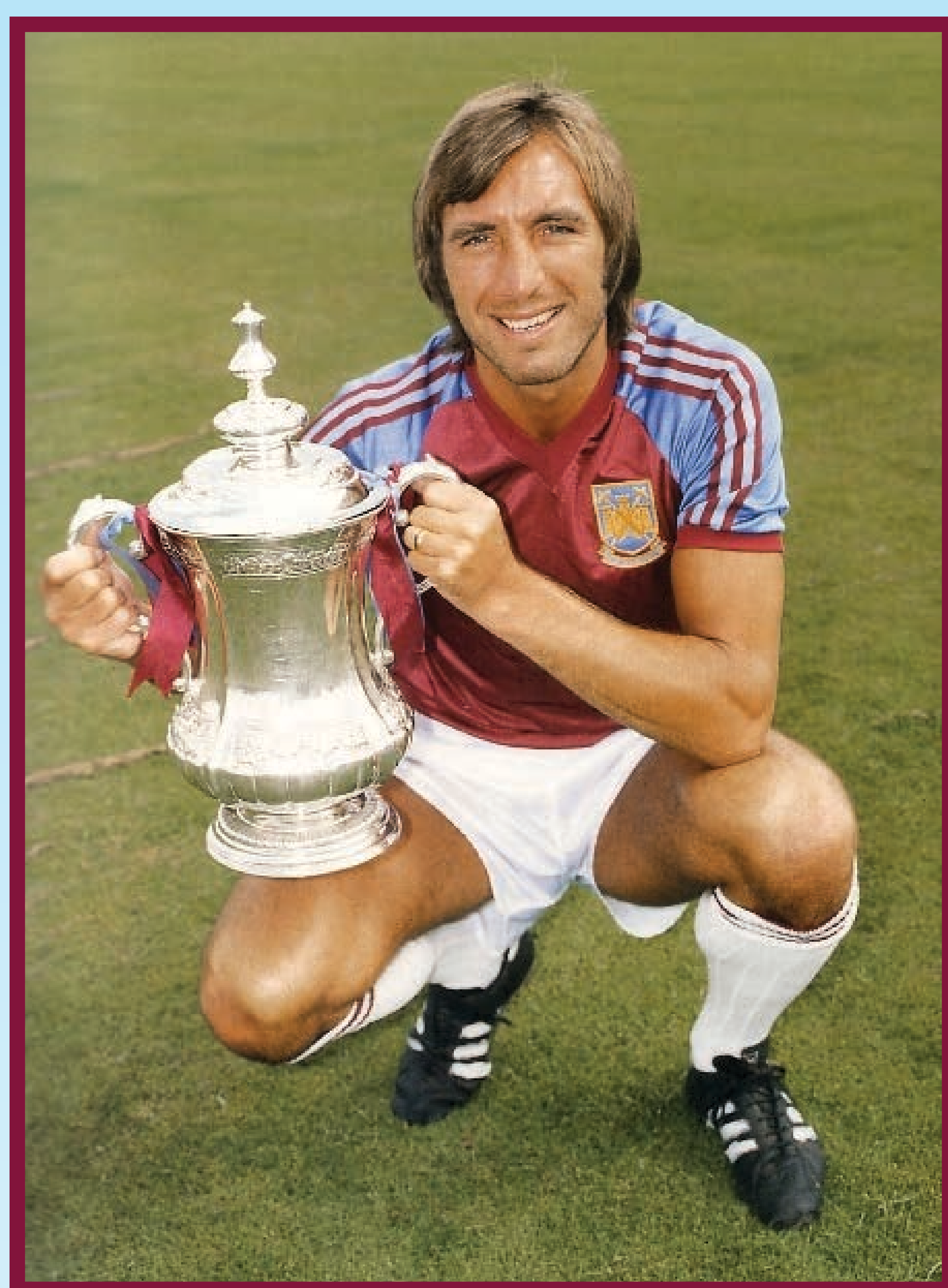
“My son Daniel was ill on the day the club gave out vouchers at a league game for the 1975 final, so I missed that game and thought that my chance of attending it was lost, however a work colleague, visiting the offices of Frank Pratt, the West Ham chairman’s timber business, mentioned my plight and to my amazement he gave my colleague two tickets for me, the irony here was that my work colleague was a Mill-wall fan, so I’m forever in his debt.” Lew (b. 1951, fan)

Lyall led the club to another European Cup Winners Cup final 1976 – West Ham lost 4-2 to Anderlecht. Narrowly avoiding relegation in 1976 and 1977, the club’s luck had run out in 1978.

“I’ll never forget, I was sitting in the kitchen on the window sill listening to the game where, we only had one radio and it was on the windowsill, and we needed to beat Liverpool to stay up and we got beaten...it was heart breaking I’ll never forget that.” Lee (b. 1951, fan)

West Ham was relegated from the First Division in 1969/70 and 1970/71. However, players such as Billy Bonds, Trevor Brooking and John McDowell brought in a new energy.

The mid 1970s saw many footballing legends leave and Ron Greenwood moved to become general manager. John Lyall was appointed team manager who led the club to the FA Cup final in 1975 with a 2-0 win over Fulham.



Billy Bonds



The 1970s also marked a rise in football violence not seen in the previous decades.

“...there was a period in the Seventies...it wasn’t just West Ham, where there was an element of violence where they thought it was okay to go around in gangs and attack anybody that wore a scarf of a different colour to the club...we’re going to call them the InterCity Firm because what we’ll do, we’ll go out without the colours on, sort of undercover, go on the cheap Intercity rail to keep the cost down and anybody looks like they want a fight, we’ll have a fight with them.” Michael (b 1946, fan)

FA Cup 1975 final



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