



# Famous Names Football

## There is a strong link between Football and Freemasonry.

The first rules of Football were drawn up by the new Football Association in six meetings at the end of 1862 at the Freemasons Tavern on Great Queens Street in London, now the New Connaught Rooms next door to Freemasons Hall.

After the first match under the rules, in January 1864 a toast was drunk - how very Masonic in itself - to "success to Football, irrespective of class or creed"  
Source *Freemasonry Today*



A crucial role was played by Freemasons in founding Manchester City Football Club. Originally called St Marks, they were formed in 1880 and they took their name from the local Baptist Church. They had financial problems in 1894 and had to be rescued from bankruptcy by the club secretary.

**It was at this time they adopted the name Manchester City and the Masonic colours of pale blue shirts and white shorts.**

The management of the club were at this time believed to be Masons.

When Sidney Rose first joined the board in 1964, five of the six Directors were Masons. It was Albert Alexander, another Mason, who as Chairman made the decision to choose former Arsenal captain Joe Mercer as Manager in 1965. Both Mercer and a number of his team including captain Tony Book were Masons. They won the FA Cup, League Cup and European Cup.

### **Bert Trautmann**

Of all the Manchester City players past and present to have Masonic connections, Bremen-born Bert Trautmann is perhaps the most colourful. Signed to replace City favourite Frank Swift, he was an ex-German paratrooper who had only taken up goalkeeping while being held as a POW in Ashtonia-Makerfield.

With the war still fresh in people's minds, he was a far from popular choice, but soon won over the fans with a series of wonderful displays in goal, claiming that his training as a paratrooper helped him dive and cushion the ball on landing.

His finest hour came in the 1956 FA Cup final victory over Birmingham City. Diving at the feet of an attacker to make an important save, he injured his neck and was only able to continue after lengthy treatment.

He heroically played the last 17 minutes of the game in obvious pain and at full-time had to be helped off the pitch. The injury was later diagnosed as a broken neck, putting him out of the game for seven months, but his status as a City legend was confirmed.

When finally released by the club in 1964, he had made over 500 appearances, building up such a rapport with the local area that he subsequently joined a Stockport Lodge.

Source *MQ magazine 2002*

## OTHER FAMOUS FOOTBALL MASONS

Sir Alf Ramsey - managed England 1963-1974  
Don Revie - managed England 1974-1977  
Ron Greenwood - managed England 1977-1982

Sir Stanley Rous - President of FIFA 1961-1974

Sir Stanley Matthews - 1915-2000, played for Stoke, Blackpool and England

Leslie Compton - played for Arsenal and England as well as Cricket for Middlesex.  
Jackie Milburn - played for Newcastle and England, and Winner of FA Cup three times in five years.

Joseph Bradford - 1901-1980, scored 267 goals for Birmingham and 7 for England.  
Dixie Dean - 1907-1980, scored 383 goals for Everton and 18 for England.

Leonard Shackleton - 1922-2000, played for Arsenal and Newcastle and notably scored 101 goals for Sunderland 1 for England.

Gilbert Merrick - 1922-2010, Birmingham City Goalkeeper made 551 league appearances and had 23 caps for England.

Jim Finney - 1924-2008, English Referee in the 1962 cup Final, 1971 League Cup Final and was in the 1966 European Cup squad

Many Founding Fathers of Famous Football Clubs were Freemasons:-  
John Houlding, a Mason and Brewery owner, owned land where Everton played. When Everton moved to Goodison Park he filled the vacancy by creating Liverpool Football Club.

Of the original six directors of Liverpool FC four were Masons.

Source *Freemasonry Today*