

Pickles

A new drama for ITV inspired
by the disappearance of the
Jules Rimet trophy and its
amazing discovery by **Pickles**
the dog





Lennie – Paul Kaye



Sammy - Imogen Bryon and "Pickles"

Pickles

1966 - Grippled by football fever, a nation awaits the first match kick-off of the World Cup tournament and none more so than the Yeoman family

Cash-strapped Lennie (**Paul Kaye** – *Dennis Pennis, 2000 Acres of Sky, Black Ball, It's All Gone Pete Tong*) loves his missus, his kids, West Ham United and the England team - in reverse order. The only other family member with as much passion for the game is his 10-year old daughter Sammy (**Imogen Byron** – *Tunnel of Love*), and their pet dog, Pickles (voice by comedian **Harry Enfield**). Together, they have every faith that England can go all the way...

Then disaster strikes. A news flash reveals that the Jules Rimet Trophy has been stolen from a display at Westminster Hall. A nation holds its breath, a reward is offered but where is the cup? Will the winners get to take a trophy home?

They will if Pickles has anything to do with it...

Sammy is on a mission. Along with her faithful friend Pickles, they resolve to find the cup, claim the reward and prove that football isn't just for boys.

Further casting includes **Keith Barron** (*Where The Heart Is, Dead Man Weds,*

Duty Free, Big Bad World) as baddie Bernie, **Liz Fraser** (*Carry On regular, Doctor In Love, Dad's Army*) as grandmother Ada and **Camille Coduri** (*Doctor Who, Trial and Retribution*) as Lennie's wife Janice.

Inspired by true events, **Pickles** is written by **Michael Chaplin** (*The Walk, Monarch of the Glen, Dalziel and Pascoe*), and directed by **Gavin Millar** (*The Last Detective, Foyle's War*); produced by **Keith Thompson** (*Malice Aforethought, The Return*) and executive produced by **Joanna Anderson** and **Tim Haines**.



Ada and Janice – Liz Frazer and Camille Coduri



Bernie – Keith Barron

Cast:

Andrew MacLachlan	Doctor
Angela Curran	Midwife
Camille Coduri	Janice Yeomans
Campbell Morrison	McTavish
David Ryall	Meriweather
George Innes	Bertie
George Rossi	McBrayne
Harry Enfield	Pickles
Imogen Bryon	Sammy Yeomans
Keith Barron	Bernie
Liz Fraser	Ada
Nicola Bland	Nicky Yeomans
Paul Kaye	Lennie Yeomans
Samuel Oatley	Ken Bowles
Stewart Harwood	Policeman



Pickles is an Impossible Pictures production for ITV1

The true story, which inspired the drama

The Jules Rimet Cup was discovered by Pickles at the bottom of a suburban hedge but, in reality, Pickles belonged to *Dave Corbett* - a 26-year old river worker. The pair discovered the trophy on their daily walk in the quiet, leafy suburbs of Norwood, South London.

Champions, Brazil, had handed over the **Jules Rimet Cup** to the Football Association in March of 1966; it was to be the main attraction of the *Stampex Sports for Stamps Exhibition* in Central Hall, Westminster. Security was tight to keep an eye on the three million pound's worth of rare stamps and, of course, the world famous "winged victory" gold cup within its glass case – the highest accolade in the "beautiful game".

On the 20th of March, World Cup Willie, the lion-footballer and first official mascot of the tournament, grinned out from hoardings and shop windows; cereal boxes and beer mats as football fever gripped the nation. Along with the Beatles and Carnaby Street, the whole of Britain was on a high as comedian Kenneth Williams prepared to record the next instalment of *Around The Home...Big Ben is Still Missing*, for BBC Radio. Then, something quite unthinkable happened: it wasn't the fictional lack of Big Ben that was spread across the evening news but the embarrassing disappearance of FIFA's golden Cup that reverberated around the world...



Jules Rimet Cup



Pickles with owner Dave seen here with Henry Cooper and the reward cheque

Reputedly made of solid gold, and worth around £30,000, the trophy had been taken whilst a church service was underway in another part of the building. A reward was offered of £6,000 for information leading to the discovery of the cup as red-faced Football Association representatives and Scotland Yard were baffled as no-one appeared to have seen anything – not even the two security guards stationed in the hall. There were no clues to follow, only a vague description of: “a suspicious-looking man... described as being in his early 30s, of average height with thin lips, greased black hair and a possible scar on his face.”

Shortly after the trophy's disappearance the thieves got in touch, demanding a ransom of £15,000 for its safe return. It was Joe

Mears, the then Chairman of the FA and Chelsea FC, who received the ransom note by post, together with the eight-sided top of the cup.

There then followed a “sting” operation by Scotland Yard to trap the thieves and a 47-year old dockworker was apprehended. This go-between never divulged any details about the rest of the gang to the police, no others were charged in relation to the crime and the true identity of the heist's mastermind remains a mystery to this day.

The security company responsible for the safety of both stamps and cup was Alsa Security. Alsa's motto was an alert Alsatian dog, ironic then that just seven days later, as the FA and Scotland Yard chased their tails, the irreplaceable trophy would be sniffed out by Pickles: a mongrel pooch.

“I was about to put the lead on Pickles, my mongrel dog, when I noticed he was sniffing at something near the path, I looked down and saw a bundle. I picked it up and saw it was wrapped in newspaper... I tore the top off and saw gold and the words ‘Brazil 1962’. I took it back indoors to show my wife. I couldn't believe it for a few minutes; then I got into the car and took it to the police. Pickles saw it first — he found it, the little darling.”

Dave Corbett speaking to The Times

And so it was Pickles' keen nose that discovered the cup but how it ever found its way to the bottom of that hedge and who dropped it there, we will probably never know.



Pickles' collar with medals

Dave and Pickles were honoured guests at the post-Final reception at the Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington where ecstatic crowds not only cheered their beloved team but also Dave and Pickles for their part in the success of the tournament.

Pickles was awarded many medals for his enterprising snout: the National Canine Defence League's Silver Medal, the World Cup Collectors Club medal and one from the Italian Canine Defence League.

Pickles would proudly wear some of his medals on his collar for many years and, along with all he could eat, stardom beckoned when he was offered a role in the film, *The Spy With The Cold Nose*. Written by Alan Simpson and Ray Galton (Steptoe & Son), the film had a stellar British cast including: Laurence Harvey,

Lionel Jeffries, June Whitfield, Eric Sykes and Denholm Elliot. The production company had a very enterprising publicist who thought Pickles' presence would be a good idea to help publicise the film – and it was!

Little is known of Pickles' other cinematic exploits, but most likely bemused by all the attention, this national hero just got on with doing what dogs like best until, in the early 70s, he died: choking on his own collar whilst chasing a cat up a tree.

After the events of March 1966, Fifa secretly manufactured a replica of the trophy for use in post-match celebrations and other events.

[No one knows where the Jules Rimet Cup is today as, in the early '80s, it was stolen again and this time it would not be discovered...](#)

The cup was commissioned from French sculptor *Abel Lafleur* in 1929, in time for the 1930 FIFA World Cup™ inaugural match held in Uruguay. It was a statuette of *Nike*, the ancient Greek goddess of victory. Named after M. Jules Rimet: "founding father" and 3rd President of FIFA - the trophy was gold plated solid silver, mounted on a base of lapis lazuli standing at 35 cm high and weighing around 3.8 kilogrammes.

During the 1930s the cup was awarded three times before the championships were halted for 12 years by the Second World War. During this period it was hidden in a shoebox under the bed of the then Italian Vice-President Dr. Ottorino Barassi, to save it from discovery by occupying troops.



Today's Trophy

In 1950 play was resumed in Brazil and it was this nation that took ownership of the Cup after winning the tournament three times - achieving this in 1970 at Mexico City. In 1966, on hearing that the Cup had been stolen, a representative of the Brazilian Sports Confederation bitterly commented:

"It would never have happened in Brazil. Even Brazilian thieves love football and would never commit this sacrilege."

But history was to bite them on the bottom when, in 1983, from a bullet proof, steel lined case in the Brazilian Soccer Federation building, a gang of soccer loving thieves disabled the guard and

walked off with the Cup which, sadly, has never been seen since...a replica now sits in its place.

Today's FIFA Trophy

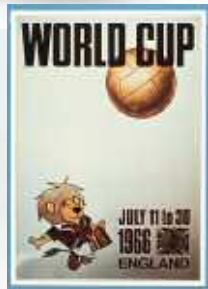
When Brazil won the right to retain the Jules Rimet Cup a new trophy was commissioned and from the 53 international designs considered the job finally went to an Italian artist Silvio Gazzaniga. The cup was made for the tenth FIFA tournament in 1974.

"The lines spring out from the base, rising in spirals, stretching out to receive the world. From the remarkable dynamic tensions of the compact body of the sculpture rise the figures of two athletes at the stirring moment of victory".

Silvio Gazzaniga

Rather uninspiringly called the FIFA World Cup the new trophy stands at 36 cm high, is worked in 18-carat solid gold (yes, this one really is solid!) and weighs around 4.9 kilogrammes. The gold sculpture is mounted on a layered base of malachite with enough room to list all the winning countries up to 2038.

The current trophy remains in the possession of FIFA and cannot be won outright by any country; however, the winning country may keep the cup until the following tournament and they are then given a gold-plated replica to keep.



Jules Rimet Cup with the poster from 1966

30th July 1966 – England is victorious!

At Wembley Stadium on July 30th, 1966, under the control of match referee Gottfried Dienst, England lined up to face Germany in the final. With a global television audience of around 400 million, in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II and before a 93,000 capacity crowd, Captain Bobby Moore led out his team. A tense match led to an historic 4 – 2 England victory, accompanied by the now legendary commentary of Kenneth Wolstenholme as Geoff Hurst scored for the third time, seconds before the final whistle blew:

“Some people are on the pitch, they think it's all over . . . it is now!”

The 1966 World Cup English Team

Goalkeepers:

Gordon Banks (1),
Ron Springett (12)
Peter Bonetti (13)

Defenders:

George Cohen (2)
Ray Wilson (3)
Jackie Charlton (5)
Bobby Moore (6)
Jimmy Armfield (14)
Gerald Byrne (15)
Ronald Flowers (17)
Norman Hunter (18)

Midfielders:

Nobby Stiles (4)
Alan Ball (7)
John Connelly (11)
Martin Peters (16)
Terry Paine (19)
George Eastham (22)
Ian Callaghan (20)

Forwards:

Jimmy Greaves (8)
Bobby Charlton (9)
Geoff Hurst (10)
Roger Hunt (21)

Coach: Sir Alf Ramsey

Trophy Finder: Pickles

Four months after it was stolen, Bobby Moore saluted an ecstatic nation by lifting the Jules Rimet Trophy for England, and Pickles will always be remembered as making that particular part of history possible!





Further Information and links:

Find out more about the UK's great footballing history and see a replica of the Jules Rimet Cup and Pickles' collar at the **National Football Museum**, Preston, Lancashire.

Preston North End were the first champions of the football league in 1889 and, by also winning the FA Cup in the same year, they were the first team to win the double. So where else would you find the National Football Museum?

Entry is free – please check with museum before travelling.

Tuesday - Saturday:

10am - 5pm

Saturday Matchday:

10am-3pm

Midweek Matchday:

10am - 7.30pm

Sunday: 11am - 5pm

Closed: Mondays
(excluding Bank Holidays)

The National Football Museum

Sir Tom Finney Way,
Deepdale, Preston.
PR1 6RU

Tel: (01772) 908 442

Fax: (01772) 908 433

www.nationalfootballmuseum.com

Fédération Internationale de Football Association

www.fifa.com

2006 official World Cup™ Site

<http://fifaworldcup.yahoo.com/>

Get all the up-to-the minute information.

The Football Association

www.thefa.com

Created in 1863 - the home of English Football.

The Dog Trust

Formerly the Canine Defence League.

www.dogtrust.org.uk/

The UK's largest dog charity.

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