

SOCCKER AMATEURS THRILL WEMBLEY THOUSANDS

"Wembley, here we come!" is the password of the week, as the giant Empire Stadium lays on the first of three Cup Finals - the Soccer Amateurs.' It's an all-Durham occasion, with Eddie Tayler, left, and Tom Farrer leading two clubs only a fourpenny busride apart - white-shirted Willington and Bishop Auckland. 250 miles away from their homes, these men who play soccer for the love of it lay on a thrill-packed game that, for excitement and text-book moves, couldn't be bettered by a First Division club. Unfancied, unheralded Willington make all the running. A brilliant move leads to their first goal - Robinson's centre being headed home by skipper Eddie Tayler.

It's Bishop's turn now - but Jack Snowden, Willington's lanky goalie, blocks the way. It's his clearance to Robinson that sets the white shirts away again. He beats one man - then another - and sends over a slide-rule centre to Rutherford. The little winger collects - gets clear - and wham! - a picture goal!

Selden has Wembley seen so many thrills in such a short time. Never has an amateur final been so full of classic football. It's another perfect move that brings goal No. 3 - Larmouth driving it in.

In the second half, the Bishop's greater experience begins to tell. Balding Bob Hardisty - many times an England cap - leads the way towards goal - but the Willington defence is solid, with the honours going to that spider-like goalie, Jack Snowden.

Well-timed passing, orthodox along-the-carpet stuff puts Willington time and again on the attack. Only goalie Washington (sporting an old college cap) stops them from piling it up. With no weeks at the seaside behind them, without any extra training - these two amateur teams are showing the Wembley thousands real football.

There is no rough stuff, no fancy tricks - but plenty to get excited about.

To the last, Bishop Auckland are in there, fighting - but they are up against a great team, well worthy of their first-ever Cup win. To little Eddie Tayler (the Willington skipper who nearly wasn't fit to play) goes the Amateur's soccer trophy.

To the little town of Willington, County Durham - go the week's headlines - deservedly earned by 11 gallant men.