

Cup miracles



West Ham (1980)

ENGLAND. Since the FA Cup began in 1872, 24 lower-division or non-league teams have made the final. Competing in the Southern League, Tottenham won the 1901 FA Cup in a replay. Six Second Division teams have won the FA Cup: Notts County (1893), Barnsley (1912), West Bromwich (1931), Sunderland (1973), Southampton (1976) and West Ham (1980).

FRANCE. The CFI's Calais reached the 2000 French Cup final, making it the only team from the equivalent of the Fourth Division to play in a cup final in a major European country. Four years earlier, National 1 (Third Division) Nîmes reached the final. Le Havre (1959) is the only one of eight Second Division finalists to win the French Cup.

GERMANY. Since the Bundesliga

was launched in 1963, nine lower-division teams have reached the German Cup final. Union Berlin is the third Third Division team to reach the final, after Hertha Berlin's amateur team (1993) and Energie Cottbus (1997). The only lower-division teams to win the German Cup are Bundesliga 2 clubs Offenbach Kickers (1970) and Hannover (1992).

ITALY. Napoli is the only one of six Serie B finalists to win the Italian Cup. It beat Spal, 2-1, in 1962.

SPAIN. Only three Second Division clubs have played for the King's Cup, and they have all lost. The most recent was Real Madrid farm team Castilla, which lost to Real Madrid, 6-1, in 1980.