

A visit by Bert Trautmann

After his captivity in England, Bert Trautmann from Bremen in Germany became a legend as a soccer goalkeeper. He was voted England Footballer of the Year in 1955. A year later he won the English Cup final with Manchester City. Fifteen minutes before the end of the game he broke a neck vertebra in a defensive parade and played to the end. Shortly after winning the cup, his little son had a fatal accident.

Bert Trautmann was also a soccer idol for the German youth Gode Gravenhorst. Gode played in a youth team in Bad Oeynhausen in the second half of the fifties. Gode's performance at school was exceptionally poor. Because of insufficient school grades - especially in English and French - he remained seated. A stay in England should help. So he went to Stockport in England to live with a family where his mother had lived for half a year as a teenager. Stockport is a suburb of Manchester.

Gode absolutely had to experience Bert Trautmann. Gode Gravenhorst dared to call Bert Trautmann – in German, of course. Lo and behold, the next day Bert Trautmann was standing in front of the guest family's door (see picture "Bert Trautmann visits Gode Gravenhorst in Stockport near Manchester, Photo Glossop"). A wonderful afternoon! However, performance in Oeynhausen remained poor. Gode worked hard and was strongly supported by the family. But he left Kant High School. But he was still enthusiastic about football.



That Bert Trautmann had visited him spontaneously and surprisingly was and remained an important personal base for him. Being able to overcome difficulties and trust his own abilities was exemplified in the person of Bert Trautmann. Gode Gravenhorst studied in the USA and did part of his military service there, worked in Canada and a few years as a scientist in France. As Professor of Atmospheric Sciences he conducted research all over the world. His conclusion: Satisfaction and success in life can very well be promoted outside of school, even if it does not have to be football, as with him. In any case: There is still a fulfilled life next to and after the school!