

WHAT A HOPE!

By Rod

This sketch explores the difference between hope based on certainty [the Christian hope] and the more traditional hope based on wishful thinking. Some updating of football detail and players' names may be needed.

CAST

Trev A football fan. A nervous optimist.

Kev Another football fan. A Liverpool supporter. A gloomy pessimist.

Bev Trev's wife/girlfriend/sister. She is very calm and relaxed throughout.

Commentator

Trev and Kev are on stage watching England v Germany in the final of the World Cup [well, this is fiction!] on TV.

Introduction Many of us were disappointed when England went out of the World Cup to Brazil. But we would like you to imagine what might have happened if England had beaten Brazil and gone on to the Final. Picture the scene in a typical English home on World Cup Final Day.

Trev *[Chanting]* England, England.

Kev *[Chanting]* Come on England. Come on England. *[Enter Bev]*

Bev What's the score?

Trev Still nil-nil.

Kev It's really tense.

Trev Yeah, England are playing so badly, even with Beckham's foot in the team.

Kev I told you we had no hope. We can beat them in the qualifiers 5-1 but when it comes to a big final it's a totally different, depressing story.

Bev Nonsense, Kev, where there's life there's hope. And the game's not over yet.

Kev It might as well be. We don't even look like scoring. Owen has barely had a sniff of the ball all game.

Trev But the defence is pretty solid around Ferdinand. We could draw nil – nil and win on penalties.

Kev Oh look [*Pointing. Sarcastically.*] there are three pigs flying past the window! When was the last time England won a penalty shoot out? Some hope.

Bev I shouldn't worry you two. After all, it's only a game.

Trev Only a game!

Kev Not worry!

Trev What planet are you on, Bev. This is the Final of the World Cup. Only a game! Typical. What do women know about football?

Kev Oh come on England. For goodness sake get a grip.

Trev Actually, Kev, they already have. Tord Grip – he's the coach. [*Kev and Trev laugh at this*]

Commentator Butt has the ball. He passes to Owen but Hamaan intercepts...

Kev Oh no, what a dreadful ball. I always said Butt was useless.

Trev Yeah, Sven should have played Hargreaves.

Comm Hamaan passes to Klose. He's in acres of space.

Kev Wake up England. Where's the defence? I can't watch.. [*Buries head in hands*]

Comm Klose is clean through. Only Seaman to beat. He must score.

Trev Come on Seaman. Get off your line you OAP. Throw your bus pass at him. Do something..

Comm Klose shoots. It's a goal! Germany 1 England 0.

Kev That's it. What did I tell you? We're done for.

Trev We've no chance now. The dream is over.

Bev Don't be so pessimistic you too. We've every chance. In fact I can tell you that I am confident that England will win 2-1.

Kev Come on Bev, be realistic.

Trev I wish I shared your calm confidence, Bev, but have you actually been watching the game? England haven't strung two passes together.

Bev Mock if you like, but I bet you England win 2-1 with goals from Owen and Beckham.

Comm England are up against it now with just three minutes to go. But Scholes has the ball in a rare attack. He passes to Heskey who finds Owen. Owen beats his man. A great bit of skill. He's in the penalty area. He shoots And scores!

Trev *[Kev and Trev leap up]* It's a miracle.

Kev *[Chanting]* It's a Liverpool you mean. Owen, Owen, Owen!

Trev What a goal.

Kev What a player. Liverpool, Liverpool, Liverpool.

Bev See, I told you not to worry. The result is a foregone conclusion. England will win.

Trev How can you say that? It's still only one-all.

Kev And that's the first shot on goal we've had all game. I bet Germany really turn it on now.

Trev Still, at least there's some hope again. We're not completely out of it.

Kev True, Trev. Come on England. If only we had Gerard playing and Danny Murphy. We need more of the Liverpool spirit in the England team.

Trev Can't be much longer to go Kev. It looks like extra time.

Kev *[Jumping up]* Oh, foul ref!

Comm That's a bad foul by Metzelder on Owen and England have a freekick right in Beckham territory. Can he conjure up some more of the magic he produced against Greece.

Trev Come on Becks. You can do it. I know you can do it.

Kev You mean, you hope he can do it.

Bev *[Calmly and firmly]* Well I know he can do it.

Trev For goodness sake, woman, stop drivelling. How can you be so calm and peaceful at a time like this? We're on the edge of our seats here. Let us suffer in peace.

Comm Beckham is over the ball. Kahn is organising the wall. Beckham starts his run up....

Kev Come on Becks. Get those metatarsals moving.

Trev Go England, Go England!

Comm Beckham strikes the ball and*[Commentator suddenly stops dead. There is a short pause while Trev and Kev work out what is happening]*

Kev What's happened? The picture's nothing but a fuzz.

Trev I don't believe it. The TV's died.

Kev What a time for it to happen.

Bev *[Calmly]* It must be the end of the tape.

Kev End of the tape?

Trev What are you talking about?

Bev You know you two went for a pre-match warm up last night – down at the pub?

Trev Yeah, well we may have had a pint or two

Kev Just to get us in the right frame of mind.

Bev Well, as a result you overslept didn't you? And missed the match didn't you. So I taped it for you didn't I? You were only watching a recording. I saw it live earlier today . That's why I was so confident of the result. You hoped England would win but I knew they would. I knew that ultimately victory was certain.

Trev You mean we're going to win?

Bev No, I mean we have already won.

Kev *[Loudly. Exuberant]* YEAAAHH!!!! *[All three exit singing loudly. England, England. We are the Champions , etc]*
THE END

