

**BUSINESS EYE**

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# The last of a golden generation

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**O**n Saturday we were offered the opportunity to re-acquaint ourselves with three backbone institutions which have helped form the very bedrock of our lives during the last 50 years and which will from here on in, be forever different.

I'd love to cover the monarchy and marriage, but I only have space enough for the most important of the three: Motty.

The final BBC whistle was blown for John Motson on Saturday.

Legendary Motty retired

this weekend after 50 years at the mike and after covering 10 World Cups, 10 European Championships, 29 FA Cup finals and more than 200 England games.

He received a special BAFTA award in recognition of his 50-year service with the BBC.

Born in the era of terrestrial TV and enjoying colossal national audience penetration figures in the day, Motty is the last of our old school TV commentators, who proved so central to shaping the mindset and manner of today's business and political leaders.

Who knew that their humour, inventiveness and passion would prove so influential?

The most often recalled, David Coleman died at 87 and was so adept at uttering inspired nonsense in the moment that he spawned the term "Coleman balls".

This offered us the immortal line "If that had gone

in, it would have been a goal", among so many others.

Who among us could ever forget the Voice of Darts Sid Waddell, the Geordie Cambridge graduate who gave us: "When Alexander of Macedonia was 33, he cried salt tears because there were no more worlds to conquer ... Bristow's only 27!"

Neither he nor Eric Bristow are still with us.

Then we might remember Ron Pickering who in total innocence, as Alberto Juantorena pulled away from the chasing pack on the way to a gold medal at the 1976 Olympic Games, bellowed out the immortal line "there goes Juantorena down the back straight, opening his legs and showing his class".

Ron died in 1991.

The legendary Murray Walker, voice of F1 and motorsport is still remembered fondly for his moments of magic in front of the microphone... "Unless I'm very much mistaken...I AM very



**John Motson**

much mistaken!"

Harry Carpenter, Richie Benaud, Peter O'Sullivan, Eddie Waring.

We were so blessed. If only we had known it at the time. It's perhaps only fitting to

leave the last words to Motty himself: "Oh that tackle was so hard it probably hurt his whole family."