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Archive Reference: 2016_esch_STOS_14

Interviewer

Interviewee

So could you just tell me your name please?

My name is Lorraine Brazier

And how do you spell that?

Er l-o-o sorry l-o-r-r-a-i-n-e Brazier b-r-a-z-i-e-r

And when were you born?

I was born in 1957

Erm so if you'd maybe start by telling us how you got into West Ham Football Club?

Okay as a youngster erm believe it or not you now know I was born in 1957 and one of a very few women who played football and my primary school did actually have a team and I was the only girl football player in the boys football tea. And basically speaking most of the people most of the boys aged 7 and 8 supported West Ham at the time and so I supported them and they were going to take me to West Ham one time erm and I sort of sat at home with my football kit on ready to go. Erm and they didn't come for me so I obviously cried my eyes out as you do as an 8 year old or whatever it is. Erm and my dad professed to take me another time erm my dad's quite a shy guy and he doesn't really like going out much, but he did sort of take me to my first ever match which is West Ham vs Derby back in the day and er that was my start of supporting West Ham

So you were just mentioning your school there, which school did you go to?

I went to a school in Essex called Thomas Willingale

Right, so you were brought up in Essex as well?

Yeah

Where about in Essex were you brought up?

I live in Loughton

Loughton

Yup

Erm so what memories do you have then of going to see West Ham with your father?

Erm my memories are of a team of Bobby Moore, Martin Peters and Geoff Hurst I am sure you've probably heard of those

Yup

With John Sissons at the time being my favourite player because he blonde and on the wing erm and obviously in those days the thick mud that everybody played in, it wasn't how it is now with lush green grass it was like thick mud and everybody was covered in mud and er it just seemed to like a really good team to support. They sort of seemed to play better in the mud and the rain and so on

Yeah, do you currently have a season ticket for West Ham?

Yeah I've currently had a season ticket all my life erm even when I went off to university, I went to Liverpool University er to become a teacher even then I had a season ticket and somebody else used it erm then I've got a season ticket for the new stadium as well

Yeah do you remember how much your season ticket cost when you very first got one?

Good question! When I first got one they must have been something like £65 and that was a lot of money in them days. You had to save up for it you know er coins in bottles and earning money doing jobs around the house and so on. That was a lot of money I know they're dearer now as a child trying to get that money together. I am one of 7 children I've got 5 brothers and a sister

Yeah

And back in Essex where we lived you know to spend that money on a season ticket was a lot of money. But somehow between me and my parents and everything we sort of got it together to sort of buy a season ticket for me

Did you ever go to games with your brothers or sisters?

My brother sadly supports Spurs

Ahhh

I got I get on with him the most but he's supports Spurs and I support West Ham even to this day I tried to make I son support West Ham. I bought him the kit I bought him a season ticket and he went to Spurs as well my nephew. So unfortunately I couldn't convert him because I think his dad would of kicked him out of the house basically

Yeah...

But my brother was a professional footballer he played for Birmingham City and Leyton Orient

Oh right

And er he's always supported Spurs

So how come he supports Spurs and you support West Ham?

Well in Essex I think he he was brought up with boys that supported Spurs and I was brought up sort my football team supporting West Ham so. It wasn't necessarily from our parents but we were born well he was born cause we moved, he was born in Edmonton which would we where you support Spurs near that sort of ground isn't it.

Yeah

I I was literally born in the house I still live in

Hmm, so what other memories do you have then of going to the games when you were young?

I erm remember Geoff Hurst scoring six goals against Sunderland, I remember getting there very very early I don't know why we did, but we used to get there at 11 o'clock when the gates open. We used to go down the front because remember back those days it was standing. Because we had to get there to get right by the wall so we can see. Erm so we had to stand right by the wall, we used to sit on the wall but they disallowed it after a few years. So we used to sit on the wall right at the very front so we can see a group of young children went together erm so very close to the pitch in those days as well. Sort of virtually touching the goalkeeper in the north bank erm and throwing the ball back when it come into the crowd and things so quite exciting

Did you erm [coughs] have a pre-match ritual? And if you did has that changed over the years?

Did I have a what did you say?

A pre-match ritual?

Oh right okay not as a child as money was sort of tight then. But always before the match we'd go to the pie & mash shop round at Nathan's, I don't know if you know it but by West Ham pie & mash shop. I don't know what's going to happen with it with the new stadium but we we used to go in there before the matches obviously when erm I had my own money and er sort of had a job sort of thing. We always go there for pie & mash and green liquor

Hmmm, did you do anything else before the game? Did you go to the Boleyn pub or..?

Well I used to always wear a bobble hat particularly at university, remember I went to university in Liverpool. I had a claret and blue bobble hat and I used to wear it every day to university and the used to call med the 'hack'

[Laughs]

And erm I I went to both in the Kop with the hat on and when it was against Liverpool it was fine, when it was against Everton they tried to nick it and stuff like that. Not quite the same sort of erm clientele. But then in 1993 when Bobby Moore died I put it on the bench, you know everyone put flowers and scarfs and stuff like that and I put my bobble hat that I used to wear like literally every day on top of the gates and on some photos you can see it still, the top bit where the spikes are so I I literally used to always wear a bobble hat, not so much now but I did back then

So when you were going to the football matches what was the atmosphere like on Barking Road and on Green Street?

The atmosphere at Upton Park then because again it was standing, it was literally you couldn't you breath particularly on a night game or a cup game erm you used to be sort of like erm shoulder to shoulder with the next person. You couldn't really breath you couldn't really move erm you know we jumped up to celebrate a goal erm it was tight erm loud. I remember everyone singing erm er you know the the shear atmosphere when everyone was all standing you know at the time.

Yeah, what was the atmosphere like outside of the stadium?

Outside its sort of Upton Park was sort of er a large Asian community so it was quiet outside erm but once you got in the ground that was the sort of time when people used to scream and shout, I didn't really notice as much going to the ground but everyone used to sort of er you know large groups of people used to be walking in the same direction erm going to the ground sort of saying maybe saying who the team might be that particular day, talking about the match from the previous week. Erm discussing who was going to score and that type of thing

Hmmm, so how did you get to the football games?

Erm initially by train because obviously when I was a child obviously I couldn't drive erm so by trains with groups of other people erm from the end of the central line where I live go to Mile End get the District line and then get out at Upton Park. It will be interesting to see the changes at Upton Park station because obviously there will be thousands of people getting off the train at the same time where was obviously now that station is going to be defunct so I can't imagine people going to sort of Upton Park Station for anything other than the football.

Yeah, so you were just saying there earlier about your first game at the Boleyn Ground or Upton Park erm do you remember what the atmosphere was like at your first game?

I can remember very distinctly my dad was 6'4' guy we got there late we were right at the back we couldn't see my dad had to have me on his back the whole game erm because we couldn't see and I needed to be a bit taller being smaller erm and he professed to never go to West Ham again because in his view he had a bad experience because he had to sort of have me on his shoulders all match erm and er the atmosphere was fabulous but he didn't appreciate it. The very next summer because I was the only girl in the boys football team I

went to meet Bobby Moore, I think I sent you the photograph of that as me as a child meeting Bobby Moore

Yeah that would be great

I think I've already sent it to Joshua

Yeah

So have you got that?

Erm have you just sent it now or have you sent it previously?

No I sent it right at the start when you sort of started emailing people erm...are you Joshua

Yeah I am Joshua yeah

Alright I sent it to that when you sent me an emailing back saying 'oh what a great photo..I'll ring you for an interview'

Yeah I must have I must have I'll have a check

I can easy send it to you again

Yeah, so when you were going inside of the stadium over the years...has the stadium itself changed at all?

Yeah of course it has I mean its went from an all standing capacity crowd of 60-70,000 to an all seater ground to er whatever the capacity is now 26,000 people erm that atmosphere when your standing is in fact I stand at West Ham before we go the new stadium. We stood season ticket holders that stand behind the north bank and er Trevor Brooking lower as it's called erm and we stand up to this guy, we are the nearest people to the away supports erm so that is a big change because in the new stadium we were not going to be in that position, we are going to be right in the corner were the corner is taken at the new stadium so that's going to be a change. Erm and obviously you know we are supposed to sit down but the season tickets in the Trevor Brooking lower always stand up for the whole match

Hmmm

To sing to chant maybe a little bit taunt the opposition [laughs] because we are the closest to them

Yeah

From that point of view whilst we sat were we sit and obviously I've sat with similar people but obviously I've got no family that support West Ham, but I've always went on my own. There's a school friend that I just met up with over the years called Karen Moore we used to go, we went to the 1976 cup winners cup final when I was 18 and doing my A-Levels er we travelled all the way to Brussels back then we lost 4-2 to Anderlecht in final erm we had to

come back on the plane and Billy Bonds was on the plane as well because his father-in-law had just died and he had to obviously go to the funeral and stuff er so so she's the only one I still go to Upton Park with she now lives in Coventry and comes to every match er and in the new stadium we are going to sit near each other and there's a whole host of people over the years who get season tickets in the same place every year

Hmmm, do you actually prefer calling the stadium Boleyn Ground or Upton Park?

I've always I've always called it Upton Park but I know it's called the Boleyn Ground

Hmmm

Yeah so I means that's that's even when West Ham started leaving people are going 'what's all this about the Boleyn Ground, we've never heard it called that' well that's actually the proper name a lot of time on quizzes and things like that people are caught out when they are asked were the West Ham play, they say Upton Park and they get it wrong but we do know it's called the Boleyn Ground but we just say Upton park

So have there been any other changes then within the stadium?

Obviously we've got slightly further away from the pitch when when we got new stands for example the whole of the what's called the Betway stand has changed to put more seats in erm..more modernised you can get a lot more food and drink and more toilets and that sort of thing over the years erm when I first went in fact when I started going as a child we used to be able to go over the turnstile, that wouldn't happen now there used to be a turnstile that you literally pushed through, you used to life people over or used to climb over and didn't pay and that sort of thing, I don't think that would happen these days [laughs] it did back then rightly or wrongly I am not sure why but they just lifted the kids over most of time you know so they didn't have to pay

Yeah, do you remember anything about the chicken run at all?

Not an area I sat at erm but the chicken run always used to be..it was the last side to get seats. Okay so the time before it went to seats they said 'oh the chicken runs going to be knocked down and seated' and all that sort of thing. I actually went in it just for the last match and you got a certificate that you know you went to the chicken run on the last occasion erm so yeah that was often jammed packed particularly towards the half way line erm and yeah that was always a really good atmosphere in there that what was packed to the rafters again when it was standing erm and er they used to be all the people that sang

Hmmm so what makes the chicken run stand out as opposed to other parts of stadium?

Obviously I've done a lot of the interviews now and a lot of the people seem to talk quite fondly about the chicken run

Yeah yeah I think because they had so many people there they just liked being that side of the ground, whereas I was always on the north bank okay the people you've spoken to obviously have been in the chicken run but always you sort of looked at the chicken run..they sort of led the singing they tended to be true what I call the true supporters, diehard fans er that have gone to every single match probably went home and away erm whereas sort of when I was a

child I only went to home matches only when I got to a an adult did I sort of go to the home and away matches. Erm so obviously didn't have any family to take me

Yeah

Erm so you know I needed to get out going to the away matches but they tended to be the diehard West Ham fans chanting and singing all the time

Yeah, so when your inside of the stadium have you recognised over the years the atmosphere has changed at all?

Erm I just think people who they believe West Ham can win more so they are more on the West Ham side whereas I think people used to have a downer sometimes and just expect us to play attractive football and loose rather than going out to win but erm I think it's karma you know don't forget back in the day there was a lot of fighting there was a lot of hooliganism you know there was fighting to the ground and being a child and being a women I perhaps didn't get involved in that because you know you don't [laughs]

Yeah

Don't get involved in that sort of thing but erm but I...I knew it went on I knew I was sometimes we would be played Millwall in the cup or whatever I knew it was going to be a frosty atmosphere, to say the very least, I mean there have been some time when Man United again everyone spilled onto the match, that wasn't a particularly nice atmosphere at that time erm but I think it's changed, the all seater stadium its changed people are a lot calmer erm and they seem not to cause so much trouble

Yeah

So your probably going to tell me about the last game of the season in a minute or ask erm about that but

[Laughs]

I saw that as well I saw all of that, but truthfully that's because people were drinking very early on that day

Hmmm

I don't necessarily think they were the true fans

Yeah, so when you were inside of the stadium as well did you recognise many women going to the football matches or?

Oh yeah there's the woman they sort of acknowledge each other erm there were two sisters who were in front of me that went for years and years and years, I think they've probably died now erm you know always saw them particularly on Christmas and Boxing Day fixtures er the goalkeeper used to give them a present or they used to give the goalkeeper as present because they almost knew them by name because they always sat in the same places erm and

that sort of thing so you know the women tend to know each other quite a bit because there's so few of you erm but your not treated any differently to anybody else you know you support West Ham and your treated accordingly if you know what I mean

Have the recognised over the years at all the crowd or the fans become more diverse or?

Yeah I think it's very multicultural now. I think that's what's good about football...it brings people together. Erm doesn't matter where you're from, what colour you are you support West Ham your part of the family. Erm and I do believe that's what West Ham value the fact that it's a family erm I just joined this group on Facebook called 'Come on You Irons' and that is really good proactive to all West Ham fans erm and erm very very good at sort of organising things for West Ham supporters

Yeah, so also when you were inside of the stadium what sort of songs did you sing?

Oh always bubbles always erm I know it's got sophisticated now with the bubble machine and that type of thing but you know you used to I remember sometimes the kit sponsors used to change they used to put erm cans of bubbles on the seats so everyone could do the bubbles erm from that point of view that still happens and obviously there's quite a few about players [laughs] mainly forever blowing bubbles is sung

Yeah, so what is it about that song that's special to West Ham Football Club?

Well they say this is the story behind it that a boy with curly hair er used to play for West Ham erm and that's why they called it in bubbles and that's why they sing it apparently that's the the story that goes with it. Whether it's true or not I am not quite sure

Hmmm, so what or things do you wear inside of the stadium, do you wear a jersey or do you just wear..?

I always I always wear a football shirt I always wear a West Ham shirt erm whatever the season shirt is, sometimes I've liked the shirt sometimes I've not liked the shirt but I always buy it and I know they cost a good...and my first ever shirt which is the picture I sent to you with erm the Bobby Moore

Yeah

My parents weren't sporty weren't sort of football minded and believe me in those days those shirts cost a lot of money. The bought the wrong one because Aston Villa, West Ham and Burnley were very similar

Yeah

It's actually an Aston Villa shirt that I've got on

[Laughs]

Erm my parents sort of didn't know the difference really

Hmmm so in terms of atmosphere as well in the stadium erm which part of the stadium do you think is best for atmosphere? Which part do you think is the loudest?

Erm good question er its fluctuated it used to be the chicken run but now I think it's more er the Trevor Brooking lower that sings a lot more erm they used to be next to the away fans like I have but certainly I think er the north bank if it was called back then Trevor Brooking lower now you know they they sing more than anyone else now I would say. But I think everybody sings everybody gets up and has a sing

So have you ever moved around the stadium or have you always kept the same seats?

Yeah I have actually, I used to be I used to have a season ticket behind the substitutes bench on the Betway side I used to stand in the south bank with some other people that used to go to my school. Er I went into the chicken run once and the once only for the last match, but mainly I've been in the north bank or the Trevor Brooking lower as it's called now. But I have been around most parts of the stadium at various times in my season ticket career.

Yeah, do you remember a game at all erm when the atmosphere has been particularly electric?

Cup games in the night there the best ones. People you know I don't what it is about West Ham playing under the lights that's why everyone wanted to play Man United under the lights because erm that's where West Hams atmosphere is the best, that's where we often play the best, so it's mainly cup games I would say

So what is it about cup games and playing in the evening that kind of makes the atmosphere better do you think?

I think the hope that we are going to win the hope we are going to win the cup erm I think some people would take winning the cup over winning the league erm so from that perspective you know that's quite quite good you want to win the cup. Even sort of er going into the Champions League perhaps we wouldn't have won if that was possible last season, I think even people would prefer to be in the cup final than the Champions League. Erm it's a tradition of West Ham they tend to do better in the cup

Yeah so obviously...the stadium is a big part of the area and the team are now moving to Stratford. What are your personal opinions on the move to the stadium in Stratford?

I am quite excited about it I've got to be honest yeah I get all the tradition with West Ham you know I've been there for years, it was emotional leaving because like I said my dad too me to my first games, my dad's no longer alive. So it's got a lot of memories and emotions to it erm so to leave it is a wrench but I think the future is to go forward you know. You know er great to play in the Olympic Stadium and you just got to move with the times I think. Around Upton Park as well I am sad that a lot of businesses are going to lose out Nathan's Pie & Mash, the Boleyn the pub corner there is probably going to lose money erm that's tragic you know I do think that but on the whole I think it's going to be a good move an exciting move

Yeah, do you think the West Ham area is going to lose a sense of itself with the club moving? Because obviously you just mentioned there as well about the potential effects on the local business like Ken's Café and such

Yeah Ken's Café another one you know that's always packed on a match day erm I mean the area is traditional sort of the east end you know of London. There's lots of Asian people the clientele over the years has changed and it tends to have a lot of Asian people, they don't necessarily eat pie & mash they don't necessarily go in the café and they definitely don't go in the pub because obviously a lot of them are Muslims. But from that perspective the whole of that ethos is going to change, I suppose there grateful they get their community back I don't know perhaps they like it that way. Because most people travel in I don't think many people these days actually live erm in Upton Park itself I think the supporters sort of travel in by train or car yeah that sort of thing

I've encountered that as well because I've interviewed about 15 people so far I don't think anyone of them are currently living in Newham

I think it's sort of changed, the areas changed over the years I mean you know you get older people you meet 'yeah I used to live near there years ago' but they don't live there now, there sort of moved out of the area. Erm and they moved away for better or for worse you know they've moved away from the area sort of erm travelling into the ground every week

So why do you think a lot of people from the east end then moved to places like Essex or Kent or wherever?

Erm they think they are doing a good thing for a better way of life I suppose erm maybe for their work erm yeah erm that's what I would probably say is the reason why they move away you know. It hasn't anything to do with football necessarily I just think it's a better way of life for them.

Yeah, so with the move as well to the stadium in Stratford what's the one aspect that your looking forward to the most?

Erm well on Saturday me and my friend are going to we are going to go look around there, just go around the shop see what it's like to see the new things they've put up. Obviously the John Lyall gates are now there which is where I put my bobble hat when Bobby Moore died in 93' erm just to see all the stadium how it's changed I mean I am a P.E teacher so I go there to watch the athletics anyway so you know this weekend we are going to travel up and see how they've changed the stadium and what sort of how they erm made it nice and everything

Do you know how your going to get to the new stadium?

Unfortunately having spent my lifetime being an adult and driving, I've drove to every single match without fail and I am going to have to get the train because there will be no parking er I live in Debden its 8 stops on the Central Line for me from Debden to Stratford now that's

the realistic way of travelling erm there's no other way really that I can get there. I can't drive any more erm so that's that's gone [laughs] if you know what I mean that traditions gone I can no longer sort of drive there, I have to go by train

Yeah, do you what your going to now before the game because your pre-match ritual so to speak will change?

Yeah true it is erm they said apparently they are going to have a pie & mash shop nearby but I don't know if that's going to come off, but I will have to find whatever the pie & mash shop is erm yeah it is going to change but until I sort of go the first match on the 7th of August against Juventus erm I am not going to know how it is or what I am going to do yet.

Hmmm, what do you expect the atmosphere to be like in the stadium?

Well it's much much bigger okay so it goes over sort of 3 tiers so to speak you've got to make a lot of noise for people to hear it erm so I am hoping you know the atmosphere is going to be better but it's a big space to fill but that's a bit of a worry really if we can generate the same noise is you know a smaller ground at Upton Park. Erm but I think that's the main thing. Better seating, better conditions should be sort of better erm better all around the stadium erm there's a café there I hear erm there's a brand new café they've opened and people can sit there and drink coffee before they watch the match and that sort of thing

Yeah

Which you know it sounds really positive

Do you think the new stadium is going to push West Ham Football Club forward?

Oh yeah! I think so yeah I really so. We had such a good season last season erm and and we did very well perhaps could have done a little bit better with either getting to the cup final or getting into the Champions League sort of died off towards the end a little bit. Erm but I think now it's time for West Ham to sort of leap into being one of the top teams in the Premiership

Hmm

I think that stadium will help us

Do you think West Ham have got a chance next season of winning a cup of trophy or?

Yeah, I think we'll win the FA Cup

The FA Cup

Yeah that's what I'd like to win, the atmosphere at Wembley is always brilliant and I'd like to I'd personally like to win

Yeah, do you any unique memories with West Ham Football Club or anything associated? I know you just mentioned meeting Bobby Moore, do you maybe want to explain a bit more about that or any other special memories you have got.

Okay yeah, what happened was I was playing you know as a child, I was playing in the school football team which was unheard of which was 1969 by the way and women playing football was just not a thing like it is today. Erm I was the only one that because I've got 5 brothers so they brought me up 3 on 3 sort of thing, to make the teams up when they used to play in the garden or when they used to play on the field. So it was natural for me to play football and I got in the primary school football team and because I was in the boys football team and doing well they came and took loads of photos of me because I was the only girl at the time in 1969 and on top of that they they I was wearing Geoff Hurst boots at the time, with the signature on and erm they couldn't get me to meet Geoff Hurst so they got me to meet Bobby Moore instead [laughs] so that's why I got to meet Bobby Moore, but that experience in itself I've still got the ball 40 years later, it's a plastic ball that he signed

Yeah

It's one of those old Wembley trophy balls back in the day and I've still got that and I've still got the photos, I've got the original photo but why I never got it signed over all these years is beyond me, I should of done but it just didn't occur to me.

So what do remember of Bobby Moore as a person?

As a person he was very very professional very nice very organised he said to the photographer taking the picture 'shall I pose signing the football' so he was very assured of what of er sort of he was er all about erm very nice man he must have known I had the wrong top on there's me a Aston Villa shirt on and Bobby Moore plays for West Ham and must of known I've got the wrong one on and my mum sewed like a West Ham badge on the front of it, so it looked more West Ham erm and er I've got this bobble hat I am talking about in the photo on and he's he's just such a lovely person. After we met and had all of the photos and shook my hand shook my dad's hand as well erm we went out and sat behind the erm substitutes in that were the substitutes actually sit as special guests to watch the match and erm at half time I going in..you used to sort of go around with a thing they wear around their neck like in the cinema with sweets and what not and I went out to buy some sweets and all the players are coming off the pitch and even sort of pat me on the head and saying 'are you enjoying the match' you know and there he is earning his living and I thought that was [audio unclear] he sort of pat me on the head saying 'oh are you enjoying it' you know and I just thought the fact that he took the trouble to one remember me from before the match when we met and to say that was very professional. The other thing was that when I think erm the photographer said 'oh can we watch the match?' and Bobby Moore said 'oh I'll have to go and ask Mr Greenwood, Ron Greenwood being the manager at the time erm because obviously it wasn't his say so and the respect he clearly had for Ron Greenwood calling him Mr Greenwood...don't do that these days and I thought that showed a lot of respect for his manager.

Do you think footballers over the years have changed? Do you think the footballers say like Bobby Moore was kind of a bit more in touch with the local communities that they kind of represented?

Yes I do I do I I Bobby Moore particularly he he lived in Chigwell erm he went to Tom Hood School in Leytonstone right and I know this sadly okay I thought there because he went there as a people because I am teacher Tom Hood school from Leytonstone because he went there

as s as a people erm and that was good. He back then wouldn't earn as much money as the professionals now I mean it's just a big money you know they earn so much money its incredible erm and that was the main difference and a lot more professional in terms of diets er they look after themselves more you know back in the old days working class days it used to be go training go to the pub you know that type of thing erm but now it's very very professional you know that particularly changed when someone like Paulo Di Canio came he told them that their training has got to change he told them their diets got to change you know sort of like got them back on the European way of how to train as footballers, professional footballers

Yeah

Erm his influence has changed a lot of people and the things they do at West Ham

Hmmm, so have been some on your favourite footballers over the years at West Ham?

Say again?

Who have been some of your favourite footballers over the years?

My all-time favourite footballers is Frank McAvennie in the 1986 teams him and Tony Cottee were the top scorers, we came 3rd in the league that year erm mainly because the t.v was I don't know what happened to t.v I think it was banned or someone and football wasn't televised and I thought he was a footballer that played with a smile on his face enjoyed what he did erm and obviously was successful so he's one of my all-time favourite and I met him now long ago at a sort of Frank McAvennie day at Upton Park and my erm sister in law knitted a jumper with McAvennie written on the back for a teddy bear again I've had it 40 odd years or however many years it is erm so you know I tend to keep things like that and I was going to give it to him and he said 'to be honest when I get drunk I'll just loose it he goes[laughs]

[Laughs]

At least because what he was saying was it means more to me than it does to him sort of thing

Yeah, so do you have any other favourite footballers then from over the years?

Yeah erm John Sissons was my first every favourite, obviously Bobby Moore I've spoken about erm Frank McAvennie I was speaking about and currently its Mark Noble. Erm you know he epitomises everything about West Ham you know he wears his heart on his sleeve he thunders around the whole pitch all of the time erm he's West Ham through and through you know born and bred erm and he's just a terrific sort of footballer all round. Shamefully he wasn't playing for England in the Euro's

Yeah, well they say that it's West Ham who wins the World Cup

Yeah it's true better not lose it [laughs]

Yeah

It's because they had no Spurs players in

So what have been some of your favourite goals then that you have experienced at the stadium?

My all-time favourite was the Di Canio one against Wimbledon I think it was the 26th of March erm and that one goal of the year won goal of the year that was fabulous goal. Erm obviously Payet's free kicks he's taking at the moment are fabulous free kicks that he's taken erm I think some of his goals have been terrific. Erm there was another one with Pat Holland against Hereford in the cup and he he wasn't he was a bit of an unsung hero Pat Holland he's another one of my favourite players because again he tries so hard, he never seemed to get the limelight he was a grafter erm and this particular time he dribbled through everybody in the Hereford team and they were going 'pass it pass it pass it pass it' and he didn't he carried on carried on sort of took on 5 or 6 players and erm shot and obviously scored to make it 1-1 to make it go to a replay and we had a replay at Hereford erm so that was a really good goal I seem to remember, so that's back in the day. Erm so yeah some good goals at West Ham

Did you ever watch football on t.v at all?

All the time erm I watch Match of the Day erm I watch any football, I am going to New York soon and I am going to see New York City F.C. which Frank Lampard plays for against L.A. Galaxy so I am you know I am football mad, not just West Ham I like all football

So what then have been some of your overall favourite football games that that you've seen?

Okay I went to the 1975 cup final when Alan Taylor scored both goals erm that was against Fulham and Bobby Moore played for Fulham at the time so you know that was at the stadium absolutely fabulous match we took a little disabled boy with us in a wheelchair and you know he could move his head and it was fantastic we were jumping up and down and he could only move his head 'oh its great it's great' you know its fantastic and all that and so I remember that. And then obviously in 1980 cup final when Trevor Brooking scored and we were the underdogs in terms of the Arsenal were a First Division side and we were a Second Division side and Trevor Brooking scored with his head that was brilliant and although we lost I liked the 1976 cup winners cup final against Anderlecht when we lost 4-2 and that was a brilliant game as well. Erm you know there's been some really good games, the 2006 when we lost in the play-offs to Liverpool

Yeah

Yeah brilliant matches

So West Ham had quite a bit of success obviously through the end of 60's, 70's 80's with some erm wins in the FA Cup and the European Cup erm why do you think those period of times were successful in comparison to say now because obviously been a little while since West Ham last won a trophy?

It was like the 1980's when we last won a trophy erm don't really count the Intertoto Cup or anything like that and promotion there not really cups there just sort of means to an end, but erm I think we had some quality players I mean you had Alan Devonshire, Trevor Brooking er we had good goalkeepers Mervyn Day, Phil Parkes it was erm a good team atmosphere erm you know and we've had a lot of good goal scorers XXXX [40:29]

So were just mentioning and earlier as well that you got to both home games and away games?

I do usually yeah

Erm do going to away games differ from homes games?

Yeah because you tend to see the same people it's normally the same people that go to the away matches. There are a lot there's a big atmosphere obviously going and we tend to have the most away supporters. I remember going away to Man United erm and we had you know terrific support up there in the cup particularly. Erm so the atmosphere is tremendous a lot more singing sort of sort of diehard dedicated fans go to the away matches because they tend me miles and miles away erm and I like the fact that the players come over and always clap the away fans I love that I think that's you know showing appreciating that you've spent time and money and effort to get up there to support your team

Hmmm, so what do you think have been some of the biggest rivalries with then for West Ham in your experience over the years?

I would say the biggest is Millwall okay it's not a positive I don't why it brings out the worst in West Ham but for some reason our biggest rivalry is Millwall. The next biggest is probably Spurs and I've already told you my brothers with Spurs so there's rivalry between sister and brother as well but I think sometimes we think we get through the whole season and beat Spurs home and away we've done a good job [laughs] but yeah erm one of the biggest rivalries I think Spurs, Arsenal I always like to beat Arsenal...that doesn't always happen

So what is it about Millwall in particular that is kind of you know the rivalry is really intense isn't it?

Yeah but it's not a positive, if you like with Spurs it a bit more it's not so intense but with Millwall I think the fans sometimes want to kill each other erm but you know I don't necessarily think that's a good thing and I don't advocate that erm but over the years I think because there both sort similar style teams they both sit on the same area and it's just been a long long rivalry against Millwall

Hmmm

For some unknown reason

There seems to be an intense rivalry between all of the London club in particular as opposed to rest of the country, obviously there some exceptions but do you think makes the rivalry so intense between the clubs in London?

Well particularly in the Premiership you know you've only go roughly you know 4-6 London teams that's are actually to be in the Premiership at any one time, so you always want to make sure that you're the best team in London erm you know Arsenal tend to have the highest spot in the league er you know Tottenham this year have done quite well, Chelsea in the past have done well and you just want to beat those big you know they've all got money spenders you know as well people that spend highly on their players erm and they've got a lot more money than sort of the West Hams of this world you know we are the poor relation sometimes erm but we still like to beat those big London teams

Yeah

It's quite important for us

Do you think the culture of football has changed at all?

I think as you say it's got every sort of er nationality into it, I think that's a thing. It used to be West Ham just used to be from the East End or just used to be people local to the ground and now tits like you can get people...my friend comes from Coventry every week there there people who come from far and wide who to support West Ham where as it used to be tight knit and near to the ground now they've all moved away erm so that's a big change erm so I don't know where it's going next year that will be a big thing

Obviously with the introduction of the t.v money etc has kind of made a big change as well hasn't it?

Yeah it has so hopefully we can bring a big name player to West Ham that's what I'd like to see, a big name..keep hold of Payet and to get another big named player to West Ham

Hmm, so how would you like to see West Ham moving forward then from this season?

Erm not just to avoid relegation which has been sort of our past if you like, challenge at least top 6 spaces in the Premiership and to win things you know, to win more cups to win more erm get in to the Champion League erm and just to be more well known if that's you know erm to be one of the top of in the Premiership not just in London.

Hmmm, do you think the move to the stadium will make West Ham a top club?

Well its already sold 50,000 thousand season ticket which is more than double than the ground holds at the moment so from that revenue and t.v rights we've got you know Slaven Bilic is the type of person that wants to move forward and is looking for players to move forward er and that that's key. Keep the entertaining football West Ham football play though it's not like Arsenal in the day when George Graham used to be manager when 1-0 would do it so no that's not necessarily acceptable to West Ham we have to play the West Ham way. I know people say this all the time you know its good attractive football, attacking football

using the wings erm I think that's that's what I think is the West Ham way of which Sam Allardyce couldn't understand

Yeah, so what does West Ham football club mean to you and how has it impacted your life over the years?

Erm basically it is my life you know I am a P.E teacher so I am into sport, I like all sports but West Ham is my team erm its part of my family everybody knows of West Ham. I am going up to collect my seat on Thursday because I've bought my seat I've sat in at the stadium erm and its just my whole way of life really erm from Monday looking forward to the matches on a Saturday erm and making sure that you know I'll get to every single match

Did you manage to buy any other West Ham memorabilia?

Yeah, what on the auction? They sort of priced it out of my market a lot of it

[Coughs]

I bought my seat and that's about it erm I truthfully they took advantage of West Ham fans in the end you know the farewell to the Boleyn we had to pay for everything you know, truthfully I think they should of given season ticket holders their seat for free if they really wanted those. Erm you know I I just think they sort of made it a money enterprise in some regards as well

Yeah, well thank you for being interviewed

My pleasure

43:22

Interview Details

Name of interviewee: Lorraine Brazier

Project: Stadium of Stories

Date of interview: 11/07/2016

Language: English



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Venue: Eastside Community Heritage

Name of interviewer: Joshua Adams

Length of interview: 47:59

Transcribed by: Joshua Adams

Archive Ref: 2016_esch_STOS_14