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So my names Joshua Adams and I'm recording for Eastside Community heritage on the Stadium of Stories project. Do you maybe just wanna introduce yourself? Tell us your name?

Yeah, my names Robert Glozier, currently known as Bob from a sporting context really. I was in East Ham, er on the XX of the XX 1948, my parents and grandparents were born in East Ham and West Ham, so we're proper East Ham people though doesn't come from there it's an Essex or maybe Brussels French name, so er, and its one you always have to spell when you tell people. So starting with my grandparents, my grandparents lived, on my mother's side, they lived in West Ham in Plaistow, and er they were West Ham supporters. My mother, my mother's mother, grandparents, she had three children, my mother had a sister and a, er 1 son, so not many people in that family. Erm still keep in touch with a couple of the cousins, I've got one, her brother who's still alive. Unfortunately the rest of them have died. Erm they lived in Haygrove West which is a proper Plaistow area, its within sight of West Ham united, and er one of my memories of my Grandfather was he worked on the railways, and he had a sort of chest complaint, and he died in a big fog in 1966, so that was a really sad time, but er my Grandmother lived to a ripe old age. Now she was about 90 when she died in about 18, sorry 1990. Erm, my mother's relations have always lived in the East End, er, her sister shop, her sister had a corner, proper corner shop, in those days opened probably 7 o'clock in the morning delivered newspapers and closed at 11 o'clock at night, except for Sunday where they'd open for a couple of hours.

Um

But probably if you knocked on the side door they'd probably open to sell you cigarettes, drinks, maybe a loaf, but not like the corner shops you get nowadays, open all hours and sell everything. Erm the, er her husband, so would be my uncle, he worked at the docks, and his son worked at the docks, they just had one boy, so they always lived in the East End, and the sons the only one alive now, he lives in Barking, still a West Ham supporter and er her had two children. His son and he were season ticket holders for probably 25 years, er not now though, getting a bit older.

[laughs]

Er, then erm, my uncle, so it's my mother's brother, he also worked in and around the docks, when his wife was a nurse, but they moved up to Kings Lyn when they retired so we haven't see much of them to now. Er they had one son, so not many relations on that side of the family. I've got a sister, er she didn't have any children so, erm not many Gloziers either.

Um

So on my dad's side, my dad was one of five children living in, er West Ham, in er Canning Town, but his dad had married previously and had five children who would have been caught up in the First World War, they live in the same place in Grange Road in West Ham, and er his mother, well the first mother, so my grandads first wife died in childbirth, but then he got married again and had another five children, so there were ten kids. So there was a few Gloziers around, but they were different generations. Erm my mum and dad originally lived next door to each other in Grange Road, but then the Second World War intervened and me mum was bombed out and er, they moved into various different places, I wouldn't've known much about it, er in the East End in what they called pre-fabs at the time, they were just sort of ramshackle buildings, probably built of asbestos, one story, that were put up quickly just to house people. Erm my sister was born in 1943, I think my mum and dad got married in 1941, they'd been part of the war. I was married in 1940- er married! *[laughs]* I was born in 1948. I was born at home in Ashford Road East Ham, so I was an East Ham boy and my sister was, sh was born in Forest Gate which is West Ham, and that was before East Ham and West Ham merged to become Newham. SO er, my mum and dad, they were lovely people, proper, not necessarily proper East Enders, I think East Ham might have effective- East Ham er always felt they were perhaps a little bit more er, well off, than West Ham. More private ownership. So they owned their own house, er my mum worked just a little bit, but in those days mums didn't go to work, they looked after the children. My dad worked in the docks, he worked in West India. Now it was interesting when he retired, and they were XXX (5.39) the docks 'cos we went, I took him back up there and where Canary Wharf runs right through the docks that's where he worked, that was his last job. And at the time they were just knocking down a big shed and er some people might remember Live House Studios, and er Split Images, but that was their TV studio and they had a job to knock it down, er the XXX (6.03) couldn't do it. Er and then the railway, the er docklands light railway actually runs right through where he worked. Right through, he wouldn't recognise that.

[Sound of telephone]

Erm so he worked at the docks until he retired, those were the days when you could work for 40 odd years and get a gold watch, and erm, I used to go down there on a Sunday sometimes, and he used to work on the books and make sure everything was up to scratch for the next week, and I'd go about, I'd go about on the dockside. Er, nothing dangerous, but you'd get different things coming. We had a submarine one time and the captain took us all round this submarine, and er they'll have cars on the side of tractors for export. But the reason it was canary wharf was because they got a lot of the oranges and fruit from the Canary Islands, at that time.

Um

So er they're memories of the, er, of the East End and the docks. And then growing up around East Ham- vastly different from now, there weren't the cars on the road, er you wen'

out and played with your mates, and you played down your own road. So my first school was Lathom Road, and they had er.. an' infants and a junior, all in a school board building, built probably 1908, something like that. Turn of the century, big red brick building. And er, growing up there was, was interesting. Er the teachers, there was 40 in a class, and you do as you were told, and then you went out to playground, and there was a great big playground. What I did was play football, you could run around to your hearts content, learnt how to read and write and gradually moved up and got bigger 'till the time came to go to a different school where you got the talk about erm, you'll have a shock because you've been in this school for a few years and now you're a big fish in a little pond and er when you go to the new school you'd better keep your head down cos you're a little fish in a big pond. Stayed in my mind at the timer, and you certainly did keep your head down because you thought you was the bees knees but actually you weren't. Erm, I was fortunate enough to pass the 11 plus, so I went to a gramma school, and the gramma school was probably some of the best years of my life. Er made friends who I still see, and later this month we've got golf day for the oldies so once a year you can see people you, you were at school with. And quite a few we weren't at school with. Meet up and talk about the old times which are always better than they are now. So er, a few football and sporting memories from school, erm as I say 43 people in a class, it was only like 6 boys as I remember, there was a lot of girls in our classes. Did- didn't know much about the other classes, but when it came to erm sports, I remember the district sports you'd go in the hundred yards and perhaps the relay and the school teacher would take you out to play football. Can't remember much about cricket, and then er I was pretty quick running, so you'd represent your school in the district sports. So all the schools in East Ham met over at farmers playing field and er you'd run your heart out and, I remember winning couple o' races. And er I remember getting in the football team, when I was in the third year, oh no I was in the second year actually, of the, of the primary school. So I was probably about 7, and er, I got in the football team, got in the cup final, and I remember playing centre forward so, kids were sort of 2 years older than me, and we drew with Napier. But neither of us was the best teams in the borough. The best teams was always er Shaftsbury Road. And when I went to the gramma school, er the chap I sat behind in the gramma school, he's still one of me best mates, and he played for Shaftsbury, but I didn't actually know him at the time. Erm so after I went to the gramma school- uniform, cap, short trousers, hymn book in your pocket, you know the hymn book in one pocket and your cap in the other pocket 'till you got to school and you put your cap on. So they were, they were good days. Good education, teachers with gowns and degrees and er keep on the left and walk, show a bit of respect. Violins sitting next to, well standing next to your desk and sit down when the teacher sat down. You were expected to do well, so things like homework were done, and you were expected to pay attention, and er, I dunno how they got on the teachers, but I know that about 4 or 5 years after I left it went comprehensive and the was death knell for quite a few of 'em cos they didn't, they weren't used to dealing with kids [cough] who answered back or talked in class. But that wasn't my memory that was someone else's. But er, childhood excellent, growing up loved the gramma school system with prefects and responsibility, the, the prefects had responsibility for organising matches, house games, athletics, er, I mean you could go on for a long time. Used to produce a school magazine, used to 've open days. Er and they were, they were, it was built on the sort of er, proper public school, so we'd have kids in the 6th form, so you'd go right through from 1 to 5 take your GCSE's, or GCE's as they were then, then you'd go on and do A Levels, and then you were expected to go on to university, and you'd always have 1 or 2 go to Oxford or Cambridge every year.

Um

And er, that was, that was great. At the time I was er, pretty good at football so er my headmaster wouldn't allow me to go and play for anybody else but there were people knocking on the doors wannin' me to play, and er I played for London and Essex and I managed to get on the England team, captain of England so they were good times. But I sustained an injury playing for England, so it meant I had time out, it wasn't big, but it was a knee injury, so er, and then as I left school, or as I wann'ed to leave school, a couple of clubs wann'ed me to sign but I wann'ed to sign for West Ham when Ron Greenwood was the manager. But I suffered from a postal strike, I got my GCSE's or GCE's as they were, I did me best in that, got a 6, but I didn't actually know my results 'cos the post-strike meant the letters wouldn't come through. I'm the school had sommin' to do with it as well, they wouldn't have wann'ed me to leave, so er. The teachers said you can't be a footballer, it's no career for anybody, and er, they said you'll have to stay on. And of course when i got back to school and I got 6, I wouldn't have got the other 3, that was Latin, French and German, I've no chance of doing that, if I looked at them now- So er I was a little bit put off, so I just spent another year at school rather than leave and follow my dreams of being a footballer, so er

Was being a footballer back then [cough] was that seen as a career sort of thing, or was it not like it is today?

Not like that, we had previous, we'd had other players who went on to play football at the time his, his eyes were at universities and he couldn't see past that, so professional sports people they weren't that good, although they weren't seriously that good. It'd only been a couple of years since the maximum wage had been lifted so there wasn't the money round that is there now. In fact there's probably too much money around if there can be such a thing. But it was a time, it was an exciting time 'cos England won the world cup, so I left school in, well I joined West Ham in 1965. West Ham won the cup, the FA cup in 64, so it was an excellent time for west Ham as well, good time for Bobby Moore, went to West, er Wembley 3 years on the spin. He went to Wembley in 1964 and West Ham beet Preston 2-0. Ronnie Boyce scored one of the goals and he was a previous East Ham boy. And then 1965 we won the cup winners cup, West Ham at the 1860 Munich. And then obviously 1966 they won the World cup so Bobby More was back at Wembley again and I was joining West Ham so I was pleased as punch. I played at Wembley as well before, before the school boys always had a match at Wembley. So that was a proud moment to be captain, er captain of England and lead the team out with 90 thousand people screaming.

What was it like playing at Wembley?

Yeah, good. But I mean, you're 5th day in an' its noisy and er we kicked off and the ball went down to the German half and it come over to me and I though oh lovely, nice good touch and it slipped under my feet and went off and the crowed went ohhhhh. But yeah, true.

What were the pitches like back then?

Don't really know. Wimberley was always very, very green, and I'm probably, one of the problems was it didn't get played on much and it was lush, whereas if you played on outside pitches they was bobbly, and if you played any time after Easter they were bare, and the goal mouths would be bare and if rained it'd be muddy. So the pitch technology wasn't around, erm, but, but Wembley, I can just remember it as being very lush and longish grass where you couldn't see your feet if you looked down because they had grass, and, and the ball

skidded off, it was lovely. Er, other pitches were poor, but then I didn't think it, I thought that's what you had so it tested your touch and my touch was good. So you know you just played for whatever conditions you had really.

What was it like, er playing in front of all those fans, like obviously the 11-a-side football there's only 30, 40 people there, if that, but what's it like playing in front of thousands?

Noisy

Is there any, do you feel any sort of pressure or-

Er no. I- Er well yes when I went- The atmosphere, er, for me the atmosphere was a big part of it, that sort of kept me playing for as long as I did, which I'll come to in a minute, but, and playing away was always good 'cos they was getting on your back. I was a defender so if they was getting on my back it meant I was doing a decent job. Erm, and so for me, yeah, the crowd, I never felt intimidated by the crowd, I always felt as if the pressure was to make me do better, and subsequently in anything I've done I would rather it was someone watching, I would play better, it would bring the best out in me rather than, I wouldn't shrink into a shell and go backwards. So er, when I talk about jobs I left school to play football, that was my main job. Erm having said that not wanting to shrink into a shell, I still thought it was a game, so when I was sort of 16, 17, 18 then getting a professional contract I still thought it was a game an' I did shrink, I didn't realise at the time what you had to do to become a dedicated professional footballer, I just thought it was a game you played. So we had people there who'd won the World Cup, Geoff Hurst, Bobby More, er Martin Peters. I mean icons, national heroes, and I didn't really at the time, feel as though I should be playing on the same pitch as 'em, I didn't have the right tools and er experience. So er I'd been at West Ham about 5 years and, and the future didn't look bright but it wasn't disastrous, and the manager at the time was Ron Greenwood an' he said oh at the year, he said well we don't see a lot of future here, he said but we don't want to give you away so we'll charge a fee for you and get what we've invested, so we'll erm, we'll put you on the transfer list and then it's up to you. He said you don't have to go, you can stay, we're quite happy with you at development and if it takes another year or two that's fine, so er, an example was Trevor Brooking was my age and he did the same as me, he stayed on at school extra year. He went to erm Ilford County High School which was a gramma, and er, he, he developed late so, perhaps it'd suited me to do that, but I, I took that as a challenge and I thought right, well I'll go somewhere and prove I can play and then I subsequently went to talk to United and played there for a while and I just went on a loan and they ended up buying me and it suited me because I did have the tools to actually make a career out of it. SO I played there for er a couple of years and played 70 games, but then I sustained a knee injury, and if you go on the internet you can look up er Torque verses Lincoln, think we were 2-0 in the FA cup, I got injured trying to stop the 3rd goal, injured my knee, and the interesting fact about it, it wasn't the fact I got injured it was the fact they ended up winning 4-3, in the days where you could have a substitute you could only have one sub, and you didn't always use 'em, you could only use 'em when you was injured so there was an injury the substitute happened to be a Ford, so they went, he went on, they went out all-out attack and ended up winning 4-3. Er, unfortunately at the time, the injury I sustained to crucial ligament wasn't the sort of thing they could repair, and so I spent 2 years injured and at the end of those 2 years the chairman said we've looked after you for 2 years, we've paid your wages, er you can either have a monthly contract or a benefit game, he said I don't think you're gonna be fit enough to play. So went through the rigmarole of going

to a specialist, I had one last operation, which I looked up subsequently and I think they only did about 60 of those in the country and they realised it didn't really work, but I think it worked ok for me. But what I did was sort of 2 years to rebuild my muscles in the knee joint, and er, so there I was sort of stuck in Torque playing a benefit game, West Ham came down, they were good to me, they, they came down, but at the time the club weren't doing very well, they, they ended up getting relegated from the 3rd division to the 4th division so that would be what, league 1 to league 2 now, so the crowds weren't very big, but erm I came by a little bit of money which enabled me to put a deposit on a house, but I didn't know what to do with myself. So what had happened, when I was at West Ham, Ron Greenwood was a very, very forward thinking manager and he was excelled on tactics, and if you like continual training regimes and coaching and he encouraged all the apprentices and young players to do coaching, because he thought, quite rightly that it made you think about your game. And er, thinking about your own game, so I mean, he, he used to like to play the right back on the right wing, or the centre forward of the centre half, and , and you would realise the, the differences between the two positions, so, that was all part of your education as you were growing up. So to do coaching as well also was part of your education, and I remember my, my first, I mean this were the days when you ask about financial erm rewards, and my first pro contract was £8 a week. And I think when I was apprentice, I think was on 5, 5, 6 or 7 those three years, or it might have been two years. So there you go £8 a week, but I actually worked for East Ham council at the time, er doing coaching in schools and I got £12 a week for that, so that might put it into perspective. On the other hand, £2-0 a week I was quite well off, so erm. When I got injured at Torque, didn't know quite what to do, I reverted to type and came back to London, started working back in the schools, er which is what I knew and was comfortable with, and er, subsequently I er, I became qualified as a teacher and I worked mainly in further education, so, er and then, probably 2 and a half, 3 years after I retired from played I went back into non-league and started coaching but then playing again. So my career in nearly 20 years, well 18 years playing football, which erm, suited me and I played for a number of different clubs. But I moved around quite a bit cos I couldn't train cos of my knee was bad, so I couldn't train and play, so I could play the games and get away with it, but people would get the 'ump if Glozier was picked every week, didn't turn up training. So er, those were good memories, and we had some good times, and made lots of very, very good friends, so er, still, still keep an eye on the non-league scene as well as the league matches. I think it's really encouraging that you've got people like Vardy come through. But even in my time I played against er Les Ferdinand when he was at Windsor, then he turned up at er, Queens Park Rangers before he came, became a full international. We've got a program next door there where we played against Stuart Pearce when he was at Wealdstone

Um

So got good memories, and erm played some decent games. So er, they, they were good times. Erm, and then after I retired from playing football again, part time, er I, my knee wasn't 100%, I er I got into football coaching, and my first job was at Chelmsford Ci'y who are still around, they're a non-league team, they're playin' at conference south. And then, Graves End. And then about 1997 when er, I mean as a school boy I'd trained at West Ham when I was at school, so they had a system where as a school boy you could train with the teams and then they could keep an eye on you, and offered you terms when you left school. It was getting a bit more organised an' they had what they called centres of excellence at the time, and erm, in 1997 West Ham, er organised an academy along the lines of everyone else, they all got together with the FA, and I got a job in the academy taking, coaching the team, an age group

team, and they had teams organised from under 9s to under 16s and then from 16 you could join the star. So it was good to be involved it worked out for about 12 years, up until a couple of years ago. Er probably actually longer than that, probably about 14 years now I think about it. Erm, so, yeah, they were good times as well. I'd been involved in a top club and top kids playin', top conditions and I travelled a bit as well went to japan with the team, erm, went to Italy, went to er, to Germany, so they were good times as well.

Did any notable, er notable players pass through the academy whilst you were there?

Oh yeah. Yeah certainly. Um, Mark Noble who's in the team now, he's the club captain, he's the same age as my son, my son played, he played at West Ham and Arsenal, and he played non-league so hes the same age, 30 now. So er he played through. And that, James, James Tomkins was in my team, in my under 10s team in 1997, and I think he's probably just leaving the club, he was West Ham notable. Er Glen Johnson, he came from Dartford, and erm, I didn't actually coach him, but I think he was the first er under nine who played for West Ham from the under nines which was first year you could play right through to full pro international, so they were good times. But we had, when I was working in FA through some connections we also took on umm the education game that they boys, once you'd left school and went to professional club you had education as well. So made quite good err contacts with umm quite a few people. Charlton has some good players at the time and er I mean Scott Parker was one of those, Charlie Macdonald, err Paul Konchesky, Kemal Izzet. So that was four, they was allowed six every year so four out of those six until recently, Scott Parker and Paul Konchesky are still playing so they were still involved.

Mm

umm.. so if you didn't, Glen Johnson was one of the kids XXX (0:28:07:9) So if you didn't actually coach, and you taught them??

Yeah

And err or enable them to get some education... I don't think they was overly worried about it but they were good boys. They all did their education so umm it provides a backdrop in case you don't make a grade XXX? (0:28:23:8). so that happened but I mentioned my son and he, he plays or he played up until recently. So err, it, it help me keep an eye on the non-league scene and err seen some of the players who were around and you get to travel and you get to see some people you might have played with umm I remember he played in a cup final down at Maidstone. That was one of my clubs, subsequently they, Maidstone had had some problems, they went into the league and they got made bankrupt and they disappeared. Then the supporters rekindled interest, much as XXX place like Wimbledon (0:28:57:7) and they got a ground in the middle of town and err so the team started playing, doing well and they're still doing really well. And yet anyway, played in a cup final down there, I went down there and they'd managed to win the cup final in extra time so we, we was waiting to go in the bar and have a drink and this chap said 'Oh Bob Glazier! He said you used to play' I thought Blimey I don't remember you. So I said 'oh yeah', he said 'Oh we was looking for people like you when we was opening the stadium'

Mm

I said oh, it's a shame I'd liked to have come down. Anyway I went in and my wife was there and I said oh a chaps just recognised me, she said you know that was twenty odd years ago and interestingly he must have been a real, real supporter 'cos he named the whole team

Yeah

That I'd played it, from twenty years ago so yeah... amazing. Amazing memory, amazing things happen. Umm so again XXX jobs (0:29:48:7) after I err was working in further education, I was working at West Ham I got to err fifty eight and I didn't really wanna do the teach anymore. I was running out of energy and enthusiasm, so I was looking 'round, I was definitely gonna retired at sixty from teaching. And I was looking 'round to change jobs and I managed to work for an awarding body which was really good. I, when I was teaching I'd written a programme so that we could get kids err out of school much the same as football clubs offer them some education football training but they'd be further education rather than west ham and arsenal. Err subsequently there are nearly ... non-league football club XXXX (0:30:37:1). Not saying I was a trailblazer, I was certainly one of the people err... system and it was very rewarding 'cos you had kids coming who thought they were going to be footballers knowing that they could actually make a living possibly from playing on league but they could certainly make a living from coaching and doing the XXX so err it's about a week away from the school holidays now and the parks will be full of kids doing different activities. So erm I'll be pleased to say that I helped to get a lot of kids into employment and err have careers doing, not necessarily teaching but certainly coaching. So that was, that was quite XXX (0:31:22:9) but then getting back to employment I worked from home for erm about nine years, eight years, err from the XXX going out and visiting colleges and err trying to make sure they did what I did when I was teaching and err mainly, mainly teachers and lecturers they do a good job. They're not many failures and yet err that's not always the the picture you get from people like Ofsted, they, they seems like there's a hidden agenda somewhere. Always checking up on you and they sort of, there's one thing checking up making sure you're doing a good job or an average job. There's nothing wrong with average, you can't all be winners. So if you're doing a good job, I think that's okay, if you're doing a poor job you shouldn't be doing it. But I think Ofsted, if I was to criticise it, criticises schools for doing an average job. They want everyone to do a top job and I don't know if it's always possible, given the tools they err give them. And schools are gonna be getting it in the ear next with err finance. I can't see how you can cut back on finance when you got more kids coming through the schools all the time. Anyway thinking about retirement. We can talk about retirement. My wife and I been married err 37 years now, 3 lovely children and err so the retirement aims was err one to enjoy life, travel as much as possible but err the allotment has been interesting but also recently we joined a bowls club so we do green bowling and err it's certainly a summer sport but we, we might play in doors as well next year. We've taken it on board and the err ill pace it out cos the bowling club is only 300 yards away. And its nice XXX of beer and good company (0:33:17:1). So erm what else will we talk about?

Erm, well can maybe go back to erm West Ham when you were younger erm what was it like being a young footballer, obviously kind of you know typical teenagers usually going out and about doing whatever else but you've got to kind of focus yourself on a, on a football club, was that a bit of a challenge or not?

Err yeah probably, looking back we and I still think I mean you the saw the err England was, England was very poor performance wise in the euros just recently in France.

Yeah

But I think that err the attitude of footballers probably hasn't changed. I don't think I was very good attitude I didn't really try, I tried as hard as I could but I didn't go back for extra training, wasn't the technology, you just sort of got on with it and learnt by sort of discovering and err fans who come and ask for your autograph and you go I don't know if I got time today, sign an autograph (0:34:17:9) I'm a big, I'm a big reserve player in a club. So those sort of things certainly go on, I'm sure they go on now. And erm its hard to explain to people today that at the time you go out and have a beer in a pub. But the pubs were closed by eleven and they, you didn't really go out till about nine o'clock. So you had a couple of beers. Drinking and driving wasn't in at the time so erm yeah, I don't know if I particularly handed it well but then you didn't get much advice on what to do.

Mm

And I'm sure that kids they don't get much advice now and agents are probably a problem so erm you sort of thought you might have been a star but really you weren't and you needed to be put in your place I think more and realise what you got in store and what possibilities you've got for you. Erm but a club like West Ham, probably never sunk in to me that err they were people out there who'd give their right arm to do what you were doing and have your opportunities I just took it as granted 'cos id always been pretty good as a player and err I probably wasn't really that good as a person and that change. When you get injured you don't-you can't play anymore so I didn't like being injured. It's probably the worse thing that can happen to a professional person and err especially as id erm id gone around in circles for a little but and then I knew my career path and also knew I wasn't able to do that anymore. But certainly in the east end part of your childhood was to err to have heroes and dreams and it certainly was a dream to play at Wembley, which I did. It certainly was a dream to captain of a team which I did. Certainly was a dream to be successful, which I sort of wasn't really. I was in some ways but not, not sufficiently successful. However in adversity you start looking at yourself and looking at life and erm you look at your family and I always remember me dad saying well your health is worth more than anything else and err it could never be a truer word and certainly I'm probably happier not being a footballer. Or I was happier coming to terms with an injury and getting- coming to terms with life. And erm certainly I think I'll be richer in friends now, knowing lots of people

Mm

And being content with what I've got. Rather than when you're playing professionally, you need to be better than the next person and erm 1966 and all that you could kick XXX (0:36:58:1) I was a defender so if you can get the better of them any other way, XXX and try and sort of put them in hospital really. (0:37:05:9). I don't think it was quite as bad as that but certainly you could be very physical with people

Yeah

And if you look back to the England team that won the world cup, XXX hunter, bit your legs (0:37:16:4) from Leeds and err XXXX and he certainly was a marker who would erm stop you playing rather than being creative. And that's not a criticism that's what you could do.

And if you look back to 1966 world cup, XXX injured and kicked and limped out the world cup and it probably was the a defensive time. So err looking back to the east end, err you probably didn't realise how much west ham meant o an awful lot of people. And I'm not the bets supporter I liked watching games and occasionally from a technical point of view so the recent euros..XXX I thought was boring because teams didn't want to take a chance. I thought Leicester was like err err a bright light coming into people's lives. Taking a chance and being not the so called expensive footballers but people had a go and they had a really good team spirit. So I loved that part of it. And err I think I could speak for a lot of west ham fans when they say they err they don't mind a XXX but they just want people to have a go (0:38:27:0)

Mm

Just got out there and give everything. 'cos they'd give their weeks wages to pay for the team or XXX their ticket to watch the team and then they'd have people out there playing like XXX superstars and just posing, they'd rather people had a go.

Yeah (0:38:41:8)

So erm I think that was an ethic that was bought up in me and yet when you played, played teams fi you played the northerns they'd go oh yeah we don't like you so, southern softies

[Laughs]

And err they'd do their best to upset you, but erm certainly you could get your own back on them. But then once you got I mean I always felt as if I was representing the area, not just the club. And there was a east ham or newham if you like ethos that you played and still some of the biggest battles were against the north London rivals so you had Tottenham and than arsenal. Err Chelsea was sort of a, not an easier touch but that was a more gentlemanly game you played then. It was a real battle if you were playing Tottenham and Arsenal. Erm but you... football wise was like East End. The football team improved as the East End improved. So if you looked at the stadium, it would be hard to try and describe... people wouldn't imagine what it was like to try and stand in the chicken run which was a wooden structure err and probably only about thirty foot high

Mm

With XXX that you probably stood on (0:39:55:1) to watch the game. Also you stood up, so you'd have to get there about eleven o clock in the morning to get your CXXX and then they'd open the gates about half twelve, one o'clock and then you'd pay money and run down to get your place but the game won't start until three. I haven't got a clue what we're doing about drinking and eating, I don't suppose we did in those days.

Yeah

It's just, was a kid and you just did what you did.

So you didn't have like a pre-match ritual or anything?

Not no I'm talking about watching.

Oh right

So err you know you'd go and watch your games and stand on the XXX but yeah (laughs) when you played games erm you'd go down to the ground and err yeah I mean at the time, it doesn't happen now so much but at the time if you was in the youth team or the first team you'd play on the first team pitch. Probably wore it out to a certain extent that's apart from the band XXX to play march up and down and they'd always be a patch at the front by the XXX box where the band used to stand XXX but yeah you'd prepare for your matches and err they used to have a little tiny gym at west ham under the stands and you'd go and kick the ball about, do your stretches and ... nothing like that today. And they wouldn't have the same technology or advice im not if It made you any better now, probably makes you fitter now. Err playing for west ham, I remember erm going over to Chadwell Heath, they still got the same erm training ground although it's like to change in the near future but you go over to Chadwell Health, sometimes you train at the ground erm Mondays you, Mondays and Tuesdays you trained, Wednesday was obviously err invariable a day off. Wednesday or Thursday, or there were games. And then Friday was a very light day, you played at West Ham then you found out what team you were playing for on a Saturday, if you were playing. If you were selected. And umm and then on the Saturday, at the time they would have had err a youth team under eighteen but they would probably have under sixteen or under seventeen team as well. So they might have had two youth teams but when I went there they certainly only had one team, played in the south east and counties and that was under 18s and err I remember when I played so they were would have been perhaps sixteen seventeen maybe eighteen so it was three years of people who played, they probably wouldn't have had enough people to have played in the team without using school boys? XXX (0:42:25:2) so when substitutes came in so there were good times, you'd go down training and then you had a youth team train or sometimes you could train in the other teams. At the time west ham would have had err about 50 people on the staff a lot more then they have today. But they would have been running three teams. The first team, a reserve team that played in the XXX league reserve league and they would have had an XXX team who played in a local league. I think our XXX league played in the Metropolitan league, which was a local league made up of a few third team so Tottenham would have been in it and like Chelmsford reserves, Brentwood reserves but the men's teams would have played in that so you'd, when you ask about playing in front of people even at that time. You'd play at Chad well health and they're be sort of 100 people watching, mainly mums and dads and a few scouts and you'd go and play at Hatfield? XXX (0:43:21:9) a thousand people watching and that was I thought that was lovely. Even when I played non-league I played a decent level in the XXX league which was like the conference now and you'd have two or three thousand people watching it was always a major part of me wanting to play and extend playing through XXX when you've got XXXX and having that responsibility if you like of not necessarily entertaining but performing in front of people and not letting people down and supporters of both sides err and if was going to beat the other team, you wanted to beat them well not by a fluke. You didn't wanna be disruptive so you wanted to do your best, I used to love that. So erm other memories of east ham. I remember (0:44:12:1) running at home from Latham Road you had to go... I was always eating at home so me mum would be at home to look after us, I had a sister who was five years older. So err you'd run home and have your lunch, you'd run home, from 12 o clock you'd come out. Run down the road, pass the railway, steam railway, me

mum would say you beed watching the steam railway and you'd say know but you blatantly had black all over you and soot

Yeah, [coughs]

Then you'd get home, eat your dinner in about four seconds and then run all the way back. So if you could get back to school by twelve thirty, that's when school dinner people came out and you could all get in the playground, pick your teams and play football for a hour.

Mm

And then after school you didn't play much you just ran home or run round to the park or come home to see your mates and play with them and then err obviously when you went to the grammar school it was slightly different and then you learnt to, you was playing against other teams and you tell people today, even at even at eleven I played in the district team and err you played Saturday morning spy oud get up at home you walk around or get the bus and you'd play a game and err I don't know, things are different, so kids are either more protected now or mums are too frightened or they don't wanna trust their kids ot get on a bus and go there or walk

Mm

Or cycle and err but when you talk to kids at the same age, that's what you used to do on Sunday. And then you get home XXX eleven o'clock Saturday morning and you'd been out all morning doing your other thing. No mobile phone, you just went and did it all.

How did you, how did you get into football then? What was it about football that you... that you liked at school?

Err dunno, I was good at it. That was probably and encouragement. You always do things you either enjoy or are good at. so yeah I used to play in the playground and then as I say, they must've noticed I wasn't playing, there wasn't a team for the third year or second year but I ended up playing for the fourth year team XXX (0:46:18:9) must've been okay, or was okay, I played for the district team when I was XXX and I was captain of that. And err we just used to have a local. I think we were in the XXX and the XXX you played against other teams but that was really organised so you had err they used to provide you with a shirt. You had to have shorts and socks and you had those football boots which was them all brown ones that used to hurt your feet all the big laces or the big toe cap. And then you'd get on a coach and go somewhere and kids will be sitting on a coach XXX used to it and err you go and play Ilford or err Colchester. I remember playing XXXX in some Essex cup and it was the muddiest pitch id ever been on. Dunno what the result was. But then when you played, when I went to a grammar school, I don't think we was allowed to play for the district team for a couple of years but then at fourteen I played because fifteen was a big year that's when they sort of had county trials and big cups that's when district team could go in the English school XXX

Mm

All of England which I'm sure still exists. And err although school football might have been XXX by the academies. So err you played those games, just recently when I was bowling this first, oh XXX Roberts is over there, (0:47:42:2) I went oh right. I thought I remember XXX Roberts. And he said yeah he played football with you and I thought blimey, well I've not seen this fellow since I was fifteen. He played, he was a centre half and he went to XXX the secondary schools and we played err a couple of games we played up in Norwich at XXX road. Fifteen years old, East Ham against Norwich and then we played Watford, we beat them 4-2, I remember scoring two goals. Then we played at Norwich- err Watford and the centre half he said always felt bad he said, I felt as if I give the game away. 'cos we ... lost a goal. He was playing centre half and he went up to attack and he said they scored a goal. I found a programme recently, I think we lost more than one nil so it wasn't... didn't XXX in any way (laughs)

Mm

Yeah was.. you meet people through sporting activities if you like and sporting activities which I've always welcomed. I probably didn't realise it at the time, actually one thing I should mention, in my job, I went back to err going to report on educational places. I remember going to erm Rathborne, Rathborne Street it was Canning Town town hall. Wasn't really a town hall it's a community centre and I went to a west ham station and they'd changed it all because of the Olympics and if anyone ever gets a chance go to west ham stadium, er station nope canning town station, get that right. And there's a big bus terminus there. They've got the story of west ham etched into the walls

Mm

You might have seen that

I haven't seen that, I've passed through the station but I haven't seen it

Yeah, it's worth looking at. Spend ten minutes walking around seeing how the ironworks got together in whenever it was 1819 whenever it was, who ran the ironworks team one of the owners he, he backed a football team with a bit of sponsorship and that was the birth place of west ham so that's why it was called the irons,

Mm

Cos that's where they were. Shipwrights, ship builders so yeah good memories of memories there of err west hams err development. I mean I've had good memories of west ham as a club not just 'cos I played there and made friends. I wasn't really that successful when I was there. Certainly with the academy and stadium growing cos I mentioned the stadium when I first went and as a kid you'd stand up and watch well now there's a super stadium full of stadium of seats and all first class full of catering, probably quite expensive but they've got everything there, private boxes, entertainment.

So the stadiums developed quite a lot then over the years

Oh you can't, you cannot describe adequately to a person's who's been to a modern stadium what the old places were like. I mean they used to smell XXX weren't too many toilets

around and just getting in there and I mentioned the chicken run... peanuts used to throw money... come sell XXX (0:50:49:5) used to throw your peanuts up and if it missed you a bloke would open a packet, nick a peanut and then give it to you so yeah things like that. Err the stadiums now are just XXX getting in and getting out unfortunately things like Bradford fire, people have learnt from that, Hillsborough they've learnt from that

Mm

So they've been changes in stadium design and umm how to get in how to get out. But yeah they're fabulous places now.

As a fan or as a footballer have you kind of seen the difference with say the atmosphere from standing to seating.

Oh yeah, I... I would be an advocate of people standing still and I would have standing here in grounds because I've mentioned this before I've watch XXX games and although there are regulations on how many seats your meant to have and how many entrances, exits toilets, turnstiles, they're all for safety reasons quite rightly, the people standing watch games and you can get an awful lot of enjoyment. I must say, a better atmosphere when people stand. And you'll notice when you, when you turn the telly on or when you go to games. There's a lot of stadiums where people stand on their seats, they stand there and stewards have sort of given up on making people sit down and that's where you get your major singing and probably your Icelandic clap XXX and that's where people have a bit of fun. And certainly sitting down might be safer but it takes so much away from the atmosphere and I've already said the atmosphere was a big thing for me. I cant speak for other players but I'm sure if you're playing in front of 20-30,000 people making a noise you'd rather they were making a noise a cheering you on

Yeah

Or even booing you rather than you go and do your thing XXX you know it adds to the atmosphere you're just ready to take the corner and there's a bit of a XXX (0:52:49:6) cheer I mean that's, that's part of... and I'm sure... I'd advocate looking, allowing certainly some of the lower league clubs where the crowds are less to actually XXX they can still be XXX you don't have to have

I think they're doing it in Germany now I think, in German stadiums

Well the people stand up, they don't want to sit down all the time. They wanna stand; they wanna feel the atmosphere and they wanna have a little jostle. So erm yeah, certainly it ... certainly at some of the clubs, I remember going to arsenal and XXX (0:53:26:4) some of the comfortable seats we ever sat on but there's certainly a bit of a... you thought you were In London theatre land rather than going to a professional football game and that's nothing against arsenal fans but you needed to find your place in the stadium I'm sure.

Mm

And err see what you're doing, really what you're doing is... football to a game you're not going to a show at the West End, you're going there to cheer and shout.

Mm

And, and join in the atmosphere and the atmosphere is one of the biggest things for me

Do you think thieves lost a bit of that at the Emirates then? Arsenal?

I'm not a XXX (0:53:59:7) but I went there the first year they opened and I know that erm it's a super super stadium and they spend less than the FA did making Wembley, Wembley's a bit of a farce in many ways, especially the transport. Still can't get in and out there properly. But it's a super stadium. When I went, personally it was the Arsenal supporters ... people were less, because they're sitting down, they're less likely to shout out and and take part in those sort of songs and banter. Because you feel a bit self-conscious.

Maybe a little bit to do with is that about the type of fan? XXX (0:54:35:9) that's going to the games now. It's a lot more family orientated now isn't it?

Oh yeah and I think also, the first, the first couple of years as far as I understand it. When you, and I'm sure it was the same at West Ham. The people that would have been at Highbury or at Upton Park, sitting in the same seats, sitting next to the same people for years and years and all of a sudden you're at a new stadium and you're not sitting next to the same people and the atmosphere changes and you're less likely to call out cos you feel about self-conscious. So certainly some of that atmosphere changed and you're right, that they're are lots of different people going to games now. I mean you mentioned Germany. I went a couple of years ago with the lads and part of the weekend we went to watch XXX play with ...err XXXX now XXX and I think the cheapest was 27 euros. (0:55:35:5)

Yeah

And err a lot cheaper than over here and you went there and there were people pushing prams and families and much err well a comfortable atmosphere if you like... certainly the majority of the crowd in England are err, they are mixed and they are families but not as much as there are over there. And it's mainly sort of men sort of between 25 and 50 and ... I know I'm not saying they're hooligans but they're just getting on with it and that's their

Yeah

Slightly different clientele and the families would either go in family enclosures or in boxes, people have private boxes that they don't have to XXX

Mm

So certainly it's changed and then they don't (0:56:20:6) they go to games and have meals whereas they didn't do that in my dad back in the old days. When you just watched and stood the crowds, the huge crowds like forty odd thousand at West Ham in the same stadium where they were XXX in here (0:56:40:5) yeah

Is it true erm to the extent that was, a lot of fans think they're the twelfth man. Erm.

Oh yeah

Does that work when you're a footballer?

Oh yeah definitely, umm I mentioned the atmosphere before and I'd go... I'd go through that. Partly. I mean you'd... part of playing in, in a stadium is the is the crowd and the crowd response and as a defender if they was quiet and I was playing away id be quite happy and as opposed to that if you were attacking and the crowd weren't behind you, you wouldn't perhaps put the same effort in. Not consciously. But certainly sub consciously or unconsciously you wouldn't bust a gut if the crowd were gonna give XXX criticism or XXX. So yeah I don't know how that works. But certainly you want people, you want people to get behind you. I mean you see Andy Murray winning the tennis. It strange he won three sets and the crowd were cheering but normally when you go to tennis they want the underdog to win a little bit so they can see more tennis and have five sets but certainly yeah, you want the crowd to get behind you. Yeah it's a big deal for me and I think that's what people wanna do, they wanna go and support their team and part of the supporting is wearing the colours and err shouting and singing you songs.

So going back to west ham when you very first joined, erm what were the typical training session day be like.

When I was in West ham XXX used to take the warm up (0:58:19:7) session. He was big on warm ups which was not necessarily heard of at the time. He used to do prancing... he used to call it prancing probably taken from the Hungarians who were miles ahead from anybody else doing body stretches and err just body movements, rowing backwards, skipping backwards getting your arms across your body, XXX in a ball 0:58:43:7 previously you'd have a big wooly tracksuit just run around the pitch twice to warm up. and certainly when i... when I went XXX There was certainly a big change in training methods. And not to the extent of today but XXX (0:59:03:3) was ahead of his time and he would get you practicing basic skills a lot. I'm not saying we didn't do that but he would teach people in different ways that umm and then you'd have some physical stuff. You didn't do the gym work that they do now. Even XXX would go in the gym and do strength training (0:59:28:8) so we didn't do too much of that. And we certainly didn't have any ice bars? XXX or anything we just went and trained. I remember west ham had one lad who came back from Southend, Trevor Dawkins, really talented midfield player and err he was pretty laid back and at the time west hams training ground was an old firms sports ground. And there was a cricket pavilion in the corner with a like a veranda on it and err you had the, the youngster and the reserves in one changing room and then the first team reserves in the other changing room. And Trevor would walk in, part of his... XXX walk in one entrance and out the other one changed and it was as if (1:00:11:4) he'd just taken his shirt off and had his kit underneath it. Erm but some people used to get a bit earlier and do a bit of practice beforehand but it wasn't, it wasn't either encouraged or not encouraged it wasn't something you id at the time but now it's really well organised. The session that have planned out and the, I'm not saying they didn't play them then

Mm

But they replicate, there's a lot of science I remember one of the things you had to have to get grading on the primer league academies was that all the 15-16 year olds wore a vest strap would not only report on their heartbeat but would report on their positioning so you could see how many times they XXX in training and what their heart rate was and how much

energy they were XXX the technology was just huge, so GPS everywhere. So the sports scientist would go back to the room afterwards and tell you how many times you'd XXX and how many runs you'd made and you see it on the telly now when they come off the pitch and they say how many yards he's covered or kilometres so yeah, just so much better organised, so much more organised than when we used to go.

What prompted that shift 'cos obviously you're talking about going to the pub afterwards after training and stuff. What promoted that shift from then to now?

Just education and technology and probably, probably the import of foreign players who have a no not have now, not now today's everyone's got a good attitude but in my era everyone used to go eat and drink or smoke and drink alcohol and erm they'd train and one of the things in the season as to get rid of the fat you'd put on the stomach but I don't see that happening much now. They look after themselves better, they're stronger and fitter and they're fitter for longer and a lot of that has to do with technology and diet and people actually knowing what you're supposed to eat. I mean I remember going to games and your pre match meals would be a steak with an egg on the top. Well now science tells you that you can't actually finish digesting that until you're on the coach home after the game so they didn't actually do much for your game, done a lot for your psychology but nothing for your fitness. So now you get a plain horrible meal that gives you energy for the game.

Mm

But it don't taste of much, it tastes of cardboard really. So it's down to science, education knowledge and people trying to ... people like XXX who managed the England rugby team... XXX (1:03:07:1) him looking at all aspects and thinking oh right what can I do. Can I deal with eyesight, can I deal with psychology, can I deal with training? Can I deal with fitness? Does my goal keeper need the same fitness as my centre half or XXX so I mean even I said I wrote a course for people to study. I mean I looked at that and that was probably only 20 years ago. So .. people coming, my colleagues XXX if he didn't know it. If he was a defender or mid field you probably needed different amounts of physical training or fitness or of springs XXX you might have to have different physicality. I remember actually, when we first launched the programme, we had err nine units or sorry eight units and we have to introduce a national unit the second year. Because the kids were coming into college having a Mars bar and wondering why they run out of energy at 11 o'clock after a training session. And erm that sort of backfired on us a little bit cos we in the early days reason we were successful cos we have kids who ... eating properly and had better coaching so we had representatives in the Essex county team and I remember going to a game where we had a traditional county game id have probably 3 teams played, whoever it was probably Middlesex, Hertfordshire, and err the after match meal as sort of sausage and chips and a couple of XXX cartons got sandwiches is it okay if we eat those cos we wanna replace the energy we just lost and you think oh right 10/10 for learning and knowing your energy requirements but not so much for hospitality and looking after people but they did it in the right way and it was really rewarding lesson that came to mind and things like recovery periods and drinking water after training and recovering after the session you know I mean XXX in the Olympics, the Olympics cycling time were very successful and have been very successful and a lot of that is down to knowledge and technology and not just having the best like, the best trainers the best psychology or the best people? so certainly that's coming to football and all modern athletics really. And erm that was part of the system, you get better pitches, pitch technology,

stadium technology, its all a far cry from when you kick a ball about on the pitch. Memories of the east end

When you were at west ham, what was the buzz like at the club when they'd just won the world cup?

Oh yeah I mean err I remember err I remember the Bobby Moore getting involved in Gillette for an advertising campaign and all of a sudden these big caravans pull up XXX a(1:06:19:4) parking in them days, some of the players didn't even have cars. But all of a sudden these two caravan pulled up on the forecourt giving out food. So for a 20 second advert I don't know what sort of money eh was paid, there was hundreds of people involved so I mean, part of the buzz after the world cup was all of a sudden they were superstars err and being involved in advertising so if you want a meal go down the caravan, eat what you like. You want extra on you.. I have extra in the back, heat this up. Had like XXX food come up. So erm things like that I mean TV interviews. I mean Bobby Moore would have appeared with one of his friends XXX talking about XX to someone the other night and he would be acting in I don't know some soap or something and they'd be asked to go and all of a sudden you'd get people in the crowd like James XXX would turn up at west ham or graham XXX them sort of people so there was a different connection. All that would be a memory of the world cup, suddenly had famous people there and er other famous people like factors, film stars ... probably politicians as well and then...

Do you think that was maybe indicative of a wider change in football 'cos obviously footballers themselves were celebrities within themselves?

Oh yeah sure

Of winning the world up, you've just mentioned there getting TV commercials and interviews maybe kind of prompted that shift onwards that direction.

Probably yeah just a natural kind of shift. I mean growing up you didn't have a telly then when you did have a telly it was about 6 inches square and you used to have to turn it on at 6 o'clock to watch the 7 o'clock news have valves and things and warm up and then they either watch BBC or BBC and it was black and white so as, as the TV has evolved and so has the internet and computers so that has then impinged on the sports stars I mean lots of sports stars get in trouble for putting stuff on twitter they've not really thought about or hasn't been improved. So yeah there's just a natural expansion of activities umm I mean I remember a buzz when we first had a colour telly I'm sure everyone at my age would have thought that was a big deal but then when you go back to your football erm umm football when it was first broadcast would have been black or white and all of a sudden there's more games and they're televised and they're televised matches controlled when the games were played even. Mm so they want to interview players, players get fired? Fined? XXX if they don't get interview (1:09:01:8) I have to have a view even if it is a bit bland and they don't critics. Everyone done their best today, we too disappointed or happy to have won or lost. So erm that was, that was probably, looking back to the world cup that was probably the start I've got a lot of it where there's more publicity I remember when west ham got in the final 64 I wasn't really part of the club then, I was just a school boy. But they would have had a player XXX any earnings from the interviews would have gone into the pool divided it all up and err not players have agents who get them interviews or they get them on TV shows. I mean Gary

Linkers been great I think in presenting you know really professional person who presents his own TV show, so err players when they come to an end they can either be a pundit or a coach and Gary never was gonna have an interesting time cos he sort of tried to coach and it sort of hasn't worked out and I'm sure he's a good coach but he, and I'm sure he'd rather do that but he might end up falling back to do err TV analysis

Yeah

But yeah I think that was probably the start of things like players getting cars from manufactures to be an advert you know unheard of before I mean suddenly err there's wider publicity. More people, TV's coming around yeah magazines, film stars, women all kinds of things I guess... scandal

Hmm yeah, I bet.

Yeah

On a personal level, did you ever get a chance to take to these players or?

Oh yeah, I mean. That was another thing with XXX he was so (1:10:47:9) forward thinking in lots of ways. He would... he would... err you said you'd gone to Newcastle. If west ham was playing with Newcastle and you was on the staff you would be on the first team squad to play Newcastle so you can get a weekend away and don't come back till Wednesday so you'd get time away and be involved in first term and then when you mentioned Bobby Moore eh would know everyone's name and he would remember everyone. And he would make sure you was part of it. So err this is Joshua Adams and he would XXX and he would make sure you was part of it and he was fabulous like that. Erm I mean martin peters was a quitter person but he was equally as friendly and Jeff Hurst the same but Bobby Moore was the main man and people looked up to him and he was just very very good at doing all of those things. So as a club west ham encouraged people being involved and err he was a natural leader.

Mm

Top man really

Cos the footballer erm West Ham do you class people as friends or just as say work colleagues?

Well yeah (laughs) the things about professional sport is that you're in it to win it if you like, you're happier if you're winning rather than just taking part. So in football, not gonna be any different. It's a team game you're playing and its more; it's more a team game than when I played cos when I first started to play there was no such thing as substitutes. You played when you were 11 that was your team if someone got injured you played with ten to nine. Or the bloke went injured. So now there's substitutes and now when you go to competitions to name sort of twenty two to twenty three and any of them could be played or changed so there is a different feeling about it all but going back to your point it was, it's just every competitive and you wanna be the one who's playing rather than the one who's not playing and erm in the changing room it's a bit strange cos when you're a kid and growing up you're all mates together and you're all in the team and that's your team, then suddenly when

you're in the changing room you're all professionals together and you appreciate someone else's point of view but you don't have to be mates at all.

Mm

There's gonna be people you don't like and erm but you still need to go out on the pitch and play with them with a professional

Yeah

Team ethic attitude, so yeah umm and there are, within the changing room there are friendships and associations and dislikes and you know you'll have fights in training that's for sure. You'll have disagreements or someone will tackle someone else and they don't like it and they'll screw it up for each other and that's understandable and they might even be mates with each other afterwards

Yeah

But while you're out there you're competitive. So I'm asked that questions sometimes at the bowling club, are you competitive? Well I'm super competitive but the best thing about bowling is good company and you have a chat about it.

Mm

So I'm sure they'll be people like me applying against a bit of animosity but I've not come across it yet. But certainly when I was at West Ham people were friendly and the atmosphere was encouraged to be friendly but you're competition. At the end of the day you'd rather be out there playing than someone else in that position. So that was the sort of thing that led to my departure and transfer from West Ham really cos Ron XXX said well you know you're best positions fall back and at the moment you've probably got three players in front of you (1:14:21:0) so you don't have to go. But I think it's in your best interest to if you look around and get the club so err sort of disappointed at the time, you cry your eyes out but then you realise err at the time you don't realise it but people in the teams sport you're a one team against the other and it's the manager how has to get the team prepared in the best way he can err in order to compete against another team and his choice of player might not be everyone's choice of player that's why there's the transfer system. You might be, you might feel you're a failure at one club and be a world star at the next one and that's a little bit of people's opinions, it's a little bit of playing the systems but it's apparent now, especially West Ham are gonna have, well no they're not gonna have a big problem, Leicester are gonna have a problem this year they're gonna be in two big competitions and they need more players cos people get injured, they get tired and they play you know high pressure game and they can't do it you know right through the seasons so yeah friendship comes into it to a certain extent but it's like a professional social thing rather than your best mates going out that's not to say you can't do it that it's just not guaranteed.

Mm

XXX again people you played against and you see them again afterwards and you have a chat and then you'd sort of click on a certain basis I mean I got friends I see regularly who I

played football sort of forty years ago and I see them regularly and I class them very, very good friends and family friends, all our families get on. So yeah interesting aspects but there's other people I played with right next to (1:16:10:0) closer than you and I are, I wouldn't wanna share a drink with

Yeah

At all probably XXX so yeah interesting, interesting topics

Who's been the best footballers that you've faced?

Best footballer?

Yup

Either in training or in a game or?

Well just as a, just as an iconic figure Bobby Moore was probably outstanding because erm he couldn't run, he certainly couldn't sprint. He couldn't XXX very well, but just as a leader and just as a, just as a one of the best players you ever seen, I remember tackler, he could tackle and he could run after you but yeah he was just amazing. But then I would say people like Pele who err could more or less do everything, although he was a forward he could more or less do everything. People like XXX XXX difficult characteristic, you wouldn't wanna ever drink with him afterwards

[laughs] yeah

You'd have people get hold of a team and win the world cup... just him. Somehow disappointed but someone like Messi – top player top XXX player but he's never had somewhere on the top stage (1:17:33:4) you know outstanding. Ronaldo's interesting cos he obviously has a big effect on the games but just as individual players, I mean people you played with I mean I remember playing in a testimonial game and there was just XXX and a fella called Alan Hudson who'd played for England played for Chelsea .. he was like ten leagues above everyone else on the pitch just from his ball skill alone. He XXX was the best player (1:18:02:5) id ever seen I think its in, its in connect. Someone said its er interesting err conversation reported from Bobby XXX , they'd said to him after England erm got beat by Iceland in the euros he said to Bobbly Charlton how do you think you get on... how do you think your world cup team got on against Iceland. He said well were sort of seventy years old now. So I think the time and place, its an interesting question. I mean George Best had more skill, but he didn't play very long did he?

Mm

And on his own he was like, he was as XXX as a pencil. There was nothing of him, well people at the time they would try and kick XXX out of him. and he would just go through and score goals XXX didn't think exists. Erm Jimmy Greaves? Was a great goal scorer. I think its difficult to... its team game one of the things your players, or youngster or even XXX was who was your best team. It's a make up. So if you said who was your best tennis player you can sort of count on one hand how many people have won so many times that's one or

against one win or lose but teams you can be, you can be a good player. I mean George best I don't think ever played in the world cup cos his team weren't good enough so you could have people who won world cups who wouldn't necessarily be the best players. So not really answered your question but...

You think erm footballers say like Bobby Moore, you think they would kind of, how do you think they'd compare today? Do you think they would be able to kind of play?

Oh well they're world class players so they would adapt. So when you say about players, I've seen Stanley Mathews play. Cos me dad said go and see him play, he's playing for stoke he was 41 and he was playing against top players and he still and the same little tricks at that age and you'd think you've got no right to play.

Mm

Against sort of 25 year olds and he was good enough. So the good players will adapt to the circumstances. I mean when I see Bobby Moore play the pitches were rubbish in comparison to what you got today. And err they would adapt cos they were good enough, they were good players and they would deal with whatever they had to deal with. And people like George Best they'd be terrific players today. Erm and I, I never saw him play but Tom XXX he played XXX (1:20:23:5) before me sort of early fifties, and he played left wing, right wing or centre forward and he played for his club or his country and those three positions so he understood an awful lot of things err

Mm

Umm I know XXX playing XXX positions now, or they play in different positions but certainly the players of an era the best players would adapt to be the best players of a different era.

Mm

And err they'd be able to handle all the different fitness things. I remember seeing err David XXX play I thought blimey I didn't even see him move, he was standing in front of a defender with a ball and the next minute he was about three yards past him with a ball and the defender hadn't even moved (1:21:08:3)

Mm

So people like that have got terrific skills, physical potentia⁷ and they would adapt to anything in my opinion

Mm

So it's difficult to, to say who's the best players because I don't, ... you have to define what your best is. Is it more successful,, scored more goals or like Alan Shearer XXX scores like forty goals in a season well no one does that now

Mm

So it must have been a XXX of a player.

What have been some of your favourite matches over the years?

[laughs] well England winning the world cup. West Ham winning the FA cup, Brazil... the Brazil – if you ever get a dvd in the 1970 world cup ill have that. That's one of the best world cups I remember seeing cos they teams played with a certain amount of flair

Mm

And they'd come away from 1966 quite defensive so terrific matches, open, open games I like open games I didn't like those euro things where they was pretty not defensive XXX forty passes to get over the defending line. I like people taking a chance

Mm

Umm [inhales]

Or as a player

Yeah... I don't know really. Not, not a good one to answer cos me memories not a 100 percent. Games you've played and it can go either way and you ended up winning it. So err I remember scoring a ... I remember heading a winning goal in extra time the last minute of extra time XXX cup final. XXX the ball I don't know I was a defender... so I don't know what I was doing up in the area to score a winning goal things like that stay in your mind. playing in, playing in XXX Malcom Alison was a manager and beating him two one. That was interesting or even playing against XXX when he was at XXX (1:23:10:6) and we lost 2 nil and we were top of the league and XXX than the second. And we have one game left and XXX and three, err two games after XXX so it was like the last game of the season and whoever won was gonna win the league and we lost 2-0. Erm it was just XXX better than us. We couldn't won't it but XXX (1:23:34:6) but erm outstanding games, there's probably been too many for me to think of. I'd have to write them down. I had er... I met a chap, a grandparent the other week actually who talks XXX looked at me I remember XXX playing against you. Well you would do he's about 6'5 and erred played the West Ham reserve tam, played against him, played at Dagenham I think, I don't know if we ended up being 3-1 or 2-1 it was just a game you'd remember. Remember playing at Wembley that's one that stays, stay'd on your mind. Also I remember playing at err I played at chesterfield and elm park which was reading. Chesterfield still exists but reading doesn't. I played for England then, England XXX (1:24:38:7) Reading we beat XXX 3-0 John XXX played for them and Chesterfield we beat Northern Ireland 9-1 and the centre half he was a good player he got blamed for the goal and I ended up the next game cos I was captain, he was captain in the first game. And you think that's a joke you won 9-1. There you go. Other games.. what other games would stay on your mind...winning the southern league cup 2-0. Mm interesting times. Getting promotions, getting promotions a couple of times. Other interesting games was when I was retired and me son was playing they got into the FA cup and they played at Mansfield and we got all the way up to Mansfield and we got to the outskirts of town we got a phone

call to say the game was off, it had rained all the way you have to play midweek and being retired we was able to make midweek so we went back then went up and they drew 1 each and then come back and played them down here. They was only a little tiny club. So that was an interesting game. Interesting times yeah, can't think of any other ones

Do you have any other interesting stories from your time at West Ham?

Probably, can't think of them at the moment. Erm yeah when I was on the reserve team err a chap spoke to me recently cos there was ... he was doing some fundraising for the Bobby Moore fun and he said or I met a friend of yours Brian XXX had been a player at West Ham and that brought up different memories. When I played in the reserve team as I say he used to play on the first team pitch and he used to play all the other reserve team much as they do today in academies but he always played on the actual stadium. So he played Southampton and Plymouth and going up to Coventry when they first had a big stadium with err jimmy XXX I remember playing down at Plymouth and that was an overnights train, it was such a long way not like I did today like you can get down there a bit easier on the motorway still a decent distance but you'd go down there and play so you get a train down there, first class having a meal. Go down the meal probably wasn't what you'd have today cos it wasn't the sort of carbohydrates and pre meal stuff go down, play the game and then you'd get on the like 9 o'clock train from Plymouth, half 9 get out quick and you'd XXXX and end up at Paddington at 7 o'clock the next morning. Couldn't really sleep much. I mean that certainly don't happen now. And err yeah. Different things coming to your mind. Playing odd matches and you'd always go by coach to the game XXX West Ham oh I tell you another thing that was interesting. Probably wouldn't be interesting to other people but I had bad eyesight Im short sighted and when I was at west ham XXX problem playing evening games couldn't see the XXX properly (1:27:51:0) so they organised for me to go to a place at Kensington and it was sort of state of the art at the time to get contact lenses and I wore these contact lenses and they was the most uncomfortable thing I ever had they used to put them in before the game and take them out afterwards and me eyes would be sticking out like doorstops and err if I played a game at West Ham I would... if I played at home I would put them in before I went to the game and drove to the game to try and get used to it them but I could still only wear them for about two hours that's how long you play the game so I'd put them in before the game, take them out immediately afterwards. Well I could see I haven't lost them XXX but when I got transferred to Torquay? I remember talking to the lad cos one of the other XXX who was 17 he has a bit of a problem looking around the pitch one day and him and the groundsmen were looking for a contact lenses and he'd lost his contact lens. So anyway he ended up finding both of them. So I asked where'd you get them from and he said I ended up going to town and I went down into town to get this local optician and err he looked at me eyes and say blimey who fitted you those eh said they're terrible and I said well a top range place in Kensington, they paid a lot of money for this. And he said they're awful well I suppose in 3-4 years the technology had changed and he made me a pair of lenses and within a week I could wear them 24hrs a day amazing

Yeah

Well not 24hrs but all my waking hours and I've worn them ever since but that's, that's a memory that's not really a football memory but what are the difference

Mm

It made to you and I still wear lenses now I got them in now, the same sort of lenses I wore since I was sort of 17 except my eyes weren't XXX at the time (1:29:35:9)

That's definitely a football memory cos err you play an evening game you wouldn't be able to play the ball much.

Mm did you prefer playing evening games?

Oh yeah

The fans seem to prefer evening games from what I've...

Err there was always, well there is always a different atmosphere. And even... when I played non-league you'll be working all day and you look forward to playing XXX evening and you get all g'd up, look forward to it, nick of work, and drive through the traffic or make people get on the train and then you'd get to the ground, meet people at the ground get to the game and you'd put all your effort into that and I think that's why sometimes the non league players they overcome all the other players cos they put so much effort into that whereas if you're a little bit pampered and you haven't got anything to distract you, you sometimes, I'm not saying you don't put your effort in, channelled the same way you haven't got the same motivation to do well. So evening games you always got a bit of an edge and the lights make it a bit different get a slightly different atmosphere and err yeah event he rain you know if it's a bit slick in the evening the ball ... people have been at work all day and come down to enjoy themselves. Saturdays like a different game really. Yeah evening games are always proper, proper different atmosphere. I think supporters made a different effort to get there as well so er yeah evening games are much better.

So obviously the projects about West Ham obviously West Ham are king of going through a big move at the moment to Stratford.

Umm what are your general thought of the moving of the Bolyen Ground or Upton Park however you wanna call it too moving to Stratford.

Yeah I think it's a shame, but then its... different, different things are affecting football. Money being one of them... well money being the only thing. Media affects the err ground so all the top grounds all the top clubs are going through modernisation just increasing their capacity. Mm so West Ham were they're situated to be fair, if you know Newham there's not really people local people now because there's big immigration there a lot of Asians and so you don't get many Asian people supporting West Ham and it makes sense to change the grounds. I mean the emirates changed just to make it a bigger stadium. Chelsea going through the same process. Tottenham are gonna go through the same processes so it's just another modern thing like you said about did you notice a change when the media get involved or film stars coming round in adverts. It's just another change but it's not necessarily for the better. It's a lovely stadium, its miles away from the pitch. They'll probably get ... well they will get more people there and they'll probably generate more income but it's just different I'm not saying its better or not as good but it's just different. The whole premiership has got too much for time there's too much involved and when I say too much, because all the money goes out the game. When there's no transfer fees it just stays it goes to agents that doesn't particulate down it just moves around in a circle and it all TV money and the TV want their

pound of flesh so it's just something that's gonna happen. Then you get players who come into the club and they're not local people so the fans don't necessarily associate with them the same way cos they're sort of west ham players but they're not their boyhood idols and they're not growing up in the same area and that's not wrong it's just different. How do I see it? Well West Ham the people have coming around west ham they say their West Ham people through and through it believe them they say it's a natural progression to go to a big stadium they've obviously pulled a few strings and worked hard to get there. So I personally, I hope it's a successful move. Erm but certainly you'd have a different atmosphere like I said about emirates

Mm

So I can't say it's a bad move you know ask me in 20 years' time I haven't got a crystal ball it's just different you know I know Stratford I know Westfield the shopping area and it's still a decent walk away and you don't have a the local pub or the local working men's club where you can have a drink or the same atmosphere so whether they can incorporate something that would err would add to that atmosphere so I don't know I'm sure it'll be successful but it will be different em whether its detrimental to the club I don't think that's an opinion. I mean the club are different now what they do have is the academy which is very big. That's not even east ham that's more sort of its situated in barking and Dagenham and then Redbridge so there's a lot of activities go on there, there's a lot of people employed there's a lot of good things happening and they, they have matches gong on where you can go and a watch under 21s or under 18s so that's tis like a different west hams if you like, it's like a separate, different west ham the first team were becoming superstars who play on a different platform. That's not to say becoming worse it's just different, very different so erm I'm sure it's something that has to happen or they have to move or get a bigger stadium to generate more income but it would be nice if you thought the fans where gonna get something back from the increase income that was getting there like cheaper seats or cheaper prices when you get here you know

Mm

When you get to a game cost you X amount and then you go have a beer and it costs you X amount and you go and have something to eat. I mean if you go to Wembley it costs you like 8 quid for a fish and chips you don't need that. 4 quid for a beer I'd rather pay less and enjoy it more

Mm obviously the clubs went through a big change but also the area, there's a lot of local business pubs and cafes and the pie and mash shop mm that relied quite heavily on the club. What are your feelings on that?

Well it's gonna happen it's up to them to change really. I mean the working men's club around the corners gonna struggle and there catering for some people but I know from , I know it's on a slightly different XXX but I know from the Boleyn that they're are less people of the Boleyn generation who are around in these areas. So the Boleyn clubs always looking for people to join in the same same way that you know I'm sure that the Asian population don't really wanna eat pie and mash and go to the working men's club and have a drink so err yeah business is supply and demand they need another change up so err yeah I can just see them closing down and changing I mean Asian businesses are every vibrant so they're being

replaced by something different wont they so err move the pie and mash over to Stratford I mean really the working men's club needs to go over there somewhere but whether they can afford to move I don't know.

Mm

Yeah just changes really not necessarily for the better just been different but then perhaps they reflect a different clientele that are going over there. Interesting to see how the away supporters get n

Yeah it's an interesting place isn't it

Yeah

So do you have any final comments then? Before we finish he interview

Err no.. it's interesting talking about your times and your life and erm I'll probably think of a couple of things that I'll probably have liked to have mentioned later on or maybe next week but yeah its interesting reliving your childhood and your parents and things they got up to and err and it's how they changed I mean I've got 3 children and my dad worked for 40 years or 42 years in the same firm erm my three children have sort of gone into a career and changed careers at 20 21 and err I'm sure you'll get the same jobs there, their different, the easts ends different so it's not either better or worse it's just different really in my opinion

Mm

Its interesting look back so it might be equally interesting for them to look back in another 40yars time and think about what changes they've seen and if they listen to this tape recording they might think that's different or that's the same or one thing they would embrace is the difference in technology

Yeah

They got more power on their phone than the first landing on the moon. Don't know if they'll appreciate that XXX but certainly yeah XXX

Well cheers for being interviewed, thank you

Oh yeah thank you

THE END



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