



The Boleyn Ground

For generations of fans it has been the experience of going to the Boleyn Ground which has reinforced the life-long connection to West Ham United F.C.



Warren Mitchell entertaining fans at the Boleyn Ground

“...my Mum and Dad would let me go to see the youth games that were played at Upton Park on my own with my friends...because there was only crowds of about two, or three hundred there...I was actually hooked for life on what I saw that day, because I was mad on football anyway... And I’d seen the youth players, the youth team included: Geoff Hurst, Jack Burkett, Eddie Bovington and Bobby Moore. Now in those days, with those sorts of crowds, you’d sit on the wall behind the goal and the players would talk to you.” Lew(b. 1951, fan)

“I remember the first time I went to Upton Park I was probably six or seven, it was a reserve match and an evening game and the floodlights were on and I just thought it was absolutely brilliant. And West Ham lost 6-0. 6-0 in a reserve game but I just thought it was absolutely brilliant that sort of atmosphere even though it wasn’t a proper match. There was probably only about three, four hundred people there...really liked sort of the smell of the place, the smell of the grass... I think it was an autumn night, it was a bit cold as well.” Martin (b. 1966, fan)



Young West Ham fans enjoying a game



The Boleyn Ground exterior

“...there was a boy down the road who said, ‘I’ve been over West Ham and they’re a great side.’ I was about 11 at the time and I had to save up a few weeks to get the money to go to the ground and we literally walked to the ground from Stratford to East Ham and walked home afterwards and the first game.” Michael (b. 1946, fan)

“During the school holidays, I would go to the stadium and collect autographs of the players; they were in the stadium, training, doing business and then would come outside and would be more than happy to sign autographs....” Lew (b. 1951, fan)

Build up to a match



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