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START AUDIO

Jason Pateman: I'm Jason Pateman. I'm 41 years old and I'm here to share my memories of Stevenage Football Club.

Interviewer: Okay. So, Jason, how long have you been connected to Stevenage?

Jason Pateman: I was born and bred in Stevenage. I was born in 1970. I haven't managed to escape yet. (Laughter) But yes, born and bred in Stevenage.

Interviewer: Right. When did you first come to a game?

Jason Pateman: My first game was the first game back here at what is now the Lamex Stadium but was Broadhall Way then, in 1980.

Interviewer: In 1980, right. So how old would you have been then?

Jason Pateman: I was 10.

Interviewer: Ten, right. Who brought you here?

Jason Pateman: My dad.

Interviewer: Yes? Great. Was he a big fan as well?

Jason Pateman: No. I played football as a junior and often played games at Shephalbury Park and on the way home- The stadium was unused and you could see, and I remember asking my dad one day on the journey back, "Why don't they play football there?" He went through the story of the landlord who was in dispute with the council and he dug the pitch up, blah de blah de blah.

Then one day- I didn't even know the stadium had opened, to be fair, and he said, "Do you want to go and see the football game? It's the first game at the stadium." So I said yes, and hooked ever since.

Interviewer: Okay. Tell me about that first game.

Jason Pateman: The first game, it was against a David Moss 11. David Moss used to play for Luton Town and he [brought the side 0:01:23] to play against Stevenage. That was the first game. Totally different to how the stadium is now.

Interviewer: Yes? Tell me about it.

Jason Pateman: The main stand which we're sitting in now was not the same size, not the same quality as it is now. It was just basically a concrete slab with slats across the concrete steps as seats. The East Terrace was a tin shack, that was how I can describe it. It was totally different. But I was hooked, as soon as I saw the first game. It was the first game I've been to where there was a crowd and I was totally hooked.

Interviewer: What do you remember about the crowd?

Jason Pateman: Just the noise. As a 10 year old... There were a lot of kids there so it was fairly noisy. I hadn't experienced that before as a child.

Interviewer: I'm thinking that you hear quite a lot of things when you're in a crowd that you probably wouldn't normally hear as a 10 year old.

Jason Pateman: I couldn't honestly say yes or no to that, recalling that at that time. I couldn't recall. I do remember that the programme wasn't a programme as such, it was an A4 sheet of paper with the team names on the back and some spiel at the front and that's all I remember.

Interviewer: So you saw the first game. Who won, by the way? Do you remember?

Jason Pateman: I know David Moss' team won. I think it was 3-2. 3-2 sticks in my head for some bizarre reason.

Interviewer: So it sounds like it was a decent game then.

Jason Pateman: It was. It was fun. It was fun to be at. I remember exactly where I was sitting in the stand. It was the top left-hand corner right against the wall. So I knew where I was as well.

Interviewer: Excellent. Did you- straight away you wanted to come back? Or how did that go?

Jason Pateman: No, it was probably a couple of years later when I was maybe 12 or 13. I used to go to [Alleyne's 0:03:13] school in the Old Town and a couple of friends were interested in coming down here, so we used to meet up at Alleyne's. We all lived in different areas, we used to meet up at Alleyne's and walk through to the ground.

Interviewer: Did you come on your own or was one of your parents with you?

Jason Pateman: No, we were of an age where we felt we were okay. There was a group of us, there were two or three of us, so we felt pretty safe.

Interviewer: Do you remember how much you had to pay to get in then?

Jason Pateman: It wasn't much. It was a couple of quid, if that. It wasn't a great deal, to be fair.

Interviewer: So you could get it out of your pocket [on the way 0:03:45]?

Jason Pateman: Absolutely, yes. It wasn't an issue.

Interviewer: Great. And then from then on, you've just been coming all the time or..?

Jason Pateman: Yes. There was a period, maybe late '80s to early '90s, maybe '89 to '92, where I played football and I played on Saturdays. It was the only time that I [played ____ 0:04:04] I couldn't come to the Saturday games. But if I could, I would get to the Monday night games, because they used to play on a Monday night rather than a Tuesday night as they do now.

Yes, if I could I'd get here. But there was a period where I was playing football by myself and I couldn't get to the home games on a Saturday.

Then I stopped playing football on a Saturday and just concentrated on Sunday, so I became more regular, became a season ticket holder, went home and away. But yes, saw some good games and good seasons.

From maybe '82, '83, up until '89, I was a regular, every home game at least, as a teenager.

Interviewer: So '82 to '89 is the time that they're in the Isthmian?

Jason Pateman: Isthmian league and then to north of Diadora, I think it was then. But certainly a lot of changes in the ground. I remember where the old changing room used to be and the old, what is now the Broadhall Suite was over where the toilets are by the East Terrace now.

Interviewer: Right. So what was the ground like in the '80s?

Jason Pateman: You had the main stand which was, as I described previously, it wasn't that big. You had your tin shack across the road. You had, sort of, I wouldn't call it a stand behind the goal at the north end, but there was standing area, concrete standing area.

Where the away end is now, it was a big grass bank and we used to like standing up on the big grass bank. Me and my friends used to like standing up on the big grass bank, especially at night for an evening game. It was absolutely brilliant. That was our view of choice.

Interviewer: Right. (Laughter) I would imagine that's going to be quite a good atmosphere there?

Jason Pateman: It was. Some days were absolutely- I mean, the crowds weren't enormous, not at that level, but yes, I can still remember standing on the grass bank with the floodlights for an evening game. It's something that is just magical, to be fair.

Interviewer: You're obviously really interested in football. Were you never tempted to go and see football at a higher level?

Jason Pateman: I suppose if I hadn't have gone to the first game here, if my dad had taken me to, I don't know, Arsenal, Chelsea, Tottenham, whoever, then maybe so. But because it was the first game that I'd ever been to a proper football ground as such, no. I was hooked here.

I did support Liverpool as a kid, as everybody did at that age, but I wasn't tempted to go and see Premier teams or first division or lower league. I was absolutely hooked as soon as I came here.

Interviewer: Okay. I've heard that the pitch was not that great [Crosstalk 0:06:56].

Jason Pateman: Compared to today, yes. It was [pitted] and not the greatest surface to play football on. It was nowhere near as good as it is now. It was a typical park pitch, I would suggest, rather than a football stadium, but that was probably due to the pitch being dug up obviously when it was unused and not being maintained very well.

Interviewer: In terms of the way the team was playing in the '80s and the level of it, what can you tell me about that?

Jason Pateman: They were exciting. They had some really, really good players. There was a particular era where they had people like Danny Dance and Phil Driver, Martin Gittings, who's a legend here. Steve Armsby, Graham Cox. They played some really, really good football. Danny Dance was a particular favourite because he was exciting. He got on the ball and you just felt that something was really going to happen.

Interviewer: Right. What position was he playing?

Jason Pateman: He floated around but I think his position should have been right midfield, right wing, but he sort of float- Him and Phil Driver used to play on opposite wings and they used to swap over and confuse the defence.

Interviewer: I'm trying to recall my history, but then it's during the '90s that they start really making this move up through the divisions. Were you watching that?

Jason Pateman: Well, from '89 to maybe '92, I was playing football, and then from '93 onwards, yes, is when they started making the moves up towards the conference.

Interviewer: And that was under Paul Fairclough?

Jason Pateman: Paul Fairclough, yes.

Interviewer: Tell me about Paul Fairclough, because everyone says he's like the great guy.

Jason Pateman: I think he just played football the right way. He wasn't this guy who told the guys to hoof it up the park and chase it. He tried to get the guys to pass it around.

I was fortunate enough to know a player who played at the club, I played cricket with him, and he had nothing but the utmost respect for Paul Fairclough. I don't know Paul Fairclough as a person, but they just seemed to enjoy what they were doing.

Interviewer: Right, yes. So the player you knew, who was that?

Jason Pateman: Oh, a guy called [Dave Venables 0:09:13].

Interviewer: Right. Did he give you a bit of insight feel to it?

Jason Pateman: Not... You know, you talk about football in general and stuff while you're [maybe batting] or whatever, but he had the utmost respect for Paul Fairclough. He loved his football while he was down there.

But yes, he didn't talk about Stevenage so much. It was just football in general.

Interviewer: Were there particular games that stand out in your memory?
There have been some great games over the years. What are the ones that you think about?

Jason Pateman: The main one- Obviously, you could go to the Newcastle FA Cup games down here which were fanta- the atmosphere was absolutely fantastic.

There was a Woking game down here when we won 4-0 and the actual stadium was absolutely packed. You couldn't move. In fact, they were probably more people in here than should have been allowed, because all the gangways were full and stuff like that.

Interviewer: Why was that Woking game so important?

Jason Pateman: Because Woking, Stevenage for whatever reason, there's rivalry.

Interviewer: Do you know why?

Jason Pateman: No, it's-

Interviewer: It's a bit of a way away.

Jason Pateman: Yes, it's not like it's Hitchin Town, is it? For whatever reason, there's always been immense rivalry and animosity sometimes. But yes, that's a particular game.

And also, I think it was '85 or '86, we did really well in the FA Vase and I remember going- for some reason, all our games were away in the Vase and we went to a place called Sharpness which is in... It's sort of this side of the Severn Bridge.

We got on a coach, obviously, and got taken down there. We were housed in this, and it was literally, a tin shack. But you could see the Severn Bridge, if you looked round the corner, you could actually see the Severn Bridge from where we were there. It was a rainy, horrible day and we won 2-0 and it was a really good game.

A guy called, I think his name is Chris Myers, was the centre forward and he had a bizarre nickname, it was 'Trout' or 'Salmon', because of the way he leapt when he went to head the ball. He scored one that day and we won 2-0. That was- the noise, because we were bashing the old tin shack and making so much noise, it was unbelievable. We actually managed to get onto the pitch after the game as well and chase after our heroes, as such. So that was good.

And in the same competition, I think it was the next round, we went down to White Leaf in Surrey and we absolutely demolished them, we won 4-1. I think [Gitts 0:11:50] got a couple of goals, I can't remember who got the other ones, but we absolutely- it should have been 7, 8, it was that dominating.

Then I'm not sure if it was the quarter-final or the semi-final, we went down to Southall in London and unfortunately, they lost 2-0. Les Ferdinand, Newcastle, England legend, was playing for Southall that day and I think he scored. Some memories

are a bit hazy but yes, we lost 2-0. That was disappointing because we honestly thought we were going to go on and win the Vase.

But yes, those sort of games were very memorable. Especially the Sharpness game because there was so much noise that we were making. It was brilliant.

Interviewer: How many do you reckon they were of you in the stand?

Jason Pateman: Oh, there were probably only about 50. (Laughter) No, there were probably a couple of hundred, I would have said, but it was an immense day.

Interviewer: Did you make a lot of friends that way? Just people you see every week at the football?

Jason Pateman: Yes, it's funny, then I was with my friends from school. You know, we used to come here regularly so it was a couple of friends from school and you'd obviously know people or they'd know people and you'd sort of stand together in the crowd.

Here, you stand in a particular area. When I first came, obviously my first game was here, but then we used to go to the grass bank and they started to re-develop the ground and they had concrete standing to one side of the main stand, and I used to stand in a particular place there.

You just come in week after week and you're just standing with people, you don't know them, but you're standing, regular faces, regular people. So you get to know them, you get to

speak to them, you get to know their names, you say, "How are you?" when you see them in town whatever and you say, "Hello."

That happens. Wherever I've been, because I'm not there anymore, I'm on the East Terrace now right by the north end by the D on the penalty box. Yes, I started standing there and as a group of people you stand there.

Some of them knew each other already and you get talking to them and now we're friends. We go out, we sometimes socialise, if we go to an away game, we'll go to an away game together. Yes, it's a way of socialising and meeting new people. But wherever I've gone, wherever I've stood around the ground, there'll be new people.

Interviewer: How come you shifted your position?

Jason Pateman: Do you know what? I couldn't answer that. I don't like sitting at football matches. I'm one for standing. As a kid, obviously, the main stand was the option but then I used to stand in the little shed across on the east side of the thing, then it was behind the goal and the grass bank. I don't know. Just one of those things.

I used to like to stand behind the goal but as you get older, you try to appreciate the game a bit more so you want a higher view so you can see the overall play.

But no, I probably stuck there for the time being. I like standing where I stand. I've got a good group of friends there so for the time being...

If they got rid of that, I may not come again. If it became all-seater, I really do not like going to all-seater games. I'm just quite passionate about standing at football matches.

Interviewer: I know what you mean. Okay. So yes, the standing thing is interesting because obviously the club haven't come up so much. I'm thinking now that it's almost going to be quite difficult to maintain the standing, isn't it?

Jason Pateman: I would imagine so. I would think the higher they progress and if they get into the championship, I'm sure they have to become all-seater at some point.

They maybe get a couple of years' grace to get the stadium up to scratch, which would be a shame because like I say, even when we went to Wembley for the cup finals, it was dread- I hated it because we were sitting down and I can't- I just hate sitting down at football matches. There's something about being able to stand up and shout and scream and you can't really do that when you're sitting down.

Interviewer: Yes. Tell me about the Wembley games that you've seen. Which ones did you go to? Have you been to all [of them 0:15:44]?

Jason Pateman: I've been to all the trophy finals. Obviously the first one back at the new Wembley, which was when the whole town decided to come to a football match, saying they don't do it every Saturday, but...

It was so disappointing after the first half and we were 2-0 down and you were like, "We're dreadful," and we were dreadful for the first half. We were absolutely pants, is the only word you could describe it.

Then they got the early goal and you just felt that yes, they can do this. When we got to 2-2, we thought that's it, we're going to win this. Got to 3-2, Steve Morrison scored what turned out to be the winner and the whole place, or the whole Stevenage end was going absolutely mental.

I took my wife with me. She came to that game. [Kidderminster 0:16:35] went up the other end about the 94th minute, there were 4 minutes of injury time and to this day, I don't know how the guy missed. He had an open goal five yards out and he put it wide. It was our day. It was our day that day.

Then went to the next final against York. I took my wife, my wife came again, and my grandson. My eldest grandson came, we took him to the game. We were comfortable against York. We were 1-0 up late in the second half, but we should have been 3 or 4 up at half time. We were that dominant. We managed to get a second goal in the last minute as well.

But yes, went to that that one, and [Barrow 0:17:20], which is the one which we lost.

Interviewer: When was that, the Barrow one?

Jason Pateman: That was about 2009 I think it was, 2009. Went a goal up, looked comfortable, looked like we were going to [control it] and we had a player sent off for... To this day, I don't know

what. It was a hard tackle but it was fair and he got sent off. The referee deemed it was a red.

They played well, they equalised, it went into extra time. Unfortunately, we'd used all our substitutes and we were down to 10 men, all our substitutes had been used. Charlie Griffin, who was our centre forward, got assaulted, basically, in the centre circle and fractured his cheekbone and had to be taken off, so we were down to 9 men.

The guy got sent off who actually ___[0:18:07] sent off, so it was 10 against 9 and we just succumbed in extra time. They managed to get the winner and we couldn't fight back after that.

Interviewer: Tough. I notice that you said you took your wife.

Jason Pateman: I did take my wife, yes.

Interviewer: That sounds like that's a rare event?

Jason Pateman: She's not really into football- Well, no, she supports Arsenal, so she's not really into football. (Laughter)

Interviewer: We'll talk about that later. (Laughter)

Jason Pateman: I go to football because I can shout and scream and maybe vent some frustration. Not that I'm shouting and screaming at

the players, I may be abusing the referees and linesmen or whatever.

She does enjoy it when she comes, but she knows it's my time. We do a lot of things together, but she knows the football is my time. Cup finals she'll come to, she has come to the odd league game as well. But yes, she comes now and again, but she knows it's my space.

She's got grandchildren from her children. She was married previously and she's got children and then grandchildren, so I've taken the three oldest grandchildren, not all together, one at a time. The oldest one's probably been nine or ten times and the next two have probably been three or four times each.

So I'm trying to get them involved, trying to buy them Stevenage football shirts rather than the Arsenal ones that they want. But yes, trying to pass on the legacy, I suppose. Get them involved and get them involved at a young age.

Interviewer: Tell me the difference between when you've won a game and when you've lost a game. How does that affect your feeling? Do you know what I mean? Obviously you've got a big stake in it. Does that change your week? Does your wife know to look out for you if it's been a bad game?

Jason Pateman: Listen, I've played sport myself most of my life, so you never go into a game wanting to lose. You're always hoping that you're going to win, but you also know that you're not going to win every game. Yes, it's fantastic when you win and you do feel a buzz and you feel great and it's very disappointing when you lose.

But no, I'm not one of those people who can go home and go, "Grrr, we lost." You know, we lost fair and simple. Sometimes you can be really frustrated because you played really well and maybe lost to a last-minute goal or something like that. That can be really frustrating.

I'm passionate about Stevenage but I don't go home and sort of take out my feelings at home. You win some, you lose some.

Interviewer: That's a good attitude. I'm wondering what the town was like after you won those Wembley finals.

Jason Pateman: Well, we went to the parade. After the first one there was a parade around Stevenage. I actually went down to the Old Town because they were going round the whole town, but I managed to get down to the Old Town and the Old Town was absolutely packed. This is after the first cup final. The Old Town absolutely packed.

There was a buzz. There was certainly a buzz in the town before and after the final. But like I said earlier, there was half the town, or most of the town at the final, next home league game, you're back to 2500, 3000 people. What happened to those supporters?

Interviewer: Do you find that frustrating?

Jason Pateman: I do because I do love this football club and it just appeared that these people are just turning up because it was at Wembley. Why don't they come every Saturday?

Interviewer: Do you think they're almost letting the town down?

Jason Pateman: Yes, in a way. I'm a firm believer in supporting your local teams. Yes, I was a Liverpool fan when I was a kid and that's fair enough. You've got these Premier League teams who the kids adore. The player, Frank Lampard, Steven Gerrard, those type of people. But to get the kids involved- even if it's not Stevenage, if it's Hitchin Town. I work in ____ [0:22:05] so ____ Town's got a football team. It's bizarre. I think you should support your local-

The amount of people you'll see on the terraces who have got a Tottenham shirt on or an Arsenal shirt on. It's like why haven't you got a Stevenage shirt on? Why pay £50, £60 to go and watch Arsenal? That can get three people in here. I just don't understand the mentality.

Interviewer: What do you think about the relationship between the crowd and the players? Because people say the modern game, the players have become detached. They're not necessarily so local. Have you noticed that change?

Jason Pateman: Well, it has. In the '80s and '90s, the bar used to be, as I say, over to the left of the terrace and the players used to go in the bar after the game. So you'd know who they were, not that

you'd talk to them as a 14, 15 year old, you're sort of in awe of them.

But that doesn't happen so much. Not that I go to the Broadhall Suite that often anyway. But yes, I guess they're not as personable, possibly. I mean, I've spoken to some of the guys, they do seem fairly- But I suppose the higher up you go, the further apart from the fans they do get.

Interviewer: I'm just wondering if you've got people coming from overseas now, if you had any overseas players?

Jason Pateman: I don't think we have. We signed Guy Madjo this year who's Cameroonian or Ghanaian or something.

Unfortunately, I haven't been down that frequently this season because I had my hip replaced earlier in the year and I went to Australia before that. I sort of didn't have enough money to come to every game. I started coming a couple of weeks ago to my first couple of games and I'll be going next week and stuff like that.

So this season I'm a bit detached myself because I haven't really been here. So it's hard to say how the new players get on with the fans because I'm not privy to that.

Interviewer: As a Stevenage ___[0:24:17], I have to ask you about the Newcastle games, I guess. Talk me through. Were you at all of them?

Jason Pateman: No. I was at the first game down here, the Alan Shearer game, which we should have one. They were a good side, but we should have one. We had a goal disallowed and there was another chance and we really should have won.

Interviewer: What was the atmosphere like that day?

Jason Pateman: Oh, it was absolutely incredible. Absolutely incredible. The noise- Even the Newcastle fans were joining in. Well, you'd expect that anyway.

But it was packed, abs- you couldn't move. You were like this. You were like sardines in a can. But it was an amazing atmosphere, and especially when we got the equaliser. The roof just went off the stadium. It was mental, I can still remember it.

I didn't go to the replay up in Newcastle because I had to work in the evening, that game, and I was in Australia for the game which we actually won 3-1. So I didn't go to that either. I didn't even manage to catch it on the sports channel out there. So no, the first Newcastle game here was something else, and we should have won.

Interviewer: You say the Newcastle fans joined in, what was the contact between the two sets of supporters? I'm assuming it's a bit difficult for them to keep you that far apart.

Jason Pateman: There was segregation, it was segregated, there was no... I don't recall any Newcastle fans managing to get into the East

Terrace or anything like that, which has happened previously with other clubs. But it was just general banter, you know, singing the songs and whatever. But no, it was good.

Interviewer: Okay. Have there been problems then? You said sometimes other fans have got in?

Jason Pateman: I wouldn't say there's problems. I mean there was one game, maybe in... Probably just before I finished in '89. We played against Corby Town, in the little shack over there, and there was a fight. A fight just broke out for no- there were about 30 Corby fans just for whatever reason decided to start fighting.

Sometimes you get fans, even now, you get away fans stand in the East Terrace and they shouldn't be there and they'll score and they'll go a bit mental as you do when you score, and sometimes you have to call the stewards and say, "Look, they shouldn't really be here." It's not that we don't want them here but if they're going to jump up and down and stick two fingers up at you, somebody's going to react because we're not all calm and placid. There will be somebody who will react and it'll cause trouble.

I've stood at rugby matches where opposing fans are sitting next to each other and there's no trouble, so it should follow in football there shouldn't be any trouble. But for some reason in football there is. There's trouble. So segregation is the only way I can see that you can stop that.

Interviewer: Yes. I think what I want to do is ask you a bit about your favourite memories, so I'm going to go kind of favourite game?

Jason Pateman: Favourite game, that's really difficult. There have been so many. I think that Woking game where we won 4-0, because Woking were up against us to win the title and it was so crucial.

Interviewer: And you were already big rivals?

Jason Pateman: Oh, yes. Like I said before, for whatever reason Woking, Stevenage has had its rivalry. Only since we went into the conference, obviously, or ____ [0:28:07] as it is. Yes, it was 4-0 and we absolutely annihilated them and there were a good 6000, 7000 people in the stadium.

During those times you could get 6000 or 7000 per game if it was a big game. Even the big games now you're not getting that figure. We're in league one now. It's bizarre. But yes, I would think that 4-0, that Woking game.

Interviewer: Was it the way that you played or was it the fact that you were beating Woking?

Jason Pateman: It's a combination. It was the fact that they were our title rivals that year, we absolutely demolished them. It's Woking. And they played some good football. It was a combination of everything. Bragging rights, I suppose for winning against Woking.

But no, it was a combination of the fact that we played so well, the scoreline, who it was against and it meant so much in relation to winning, or trying to win the championship.

Interviewer: Okay. What about favourite player? Who would be the ones that stand out?

Jason Pateman: I mentioned Danny Dance earlier on. They were a good team, that sort of era. You had Danny, you had Phil Driver, you had Mick Adamson in goal until he broke his leg. You had Peter Shadbolt played centre back, Noel Blackwell, Steve Armsby who was upfront with Martin Gittings. You had Graham Cox in midfield. Doug Pirie, Ricky Marshall, there were so many, that era.

Then as you go through the years, there's Steve Berry from the captain of the team who won the conference, Des Gallagher- I was a goalkeeper, so I sort of related to Des Gallagher. There are so many.

Favourite player? That's a really tough question because there have been so many. Danny Dance, for whatever reason, just... He was just awesome and as a 14, 15 year old, you're like yes, he's something special. He's probably rubbish but at that time, he looked special.

Obviously Gitts is a legend. So many.

Interviewer: Tell me a bit about the goalkeeper because obviously you've got some insight into that from your own experience.

Jason Pateman: Yes. We've always seemed to have decent goalkeepers. I can't recall ever having a real dodgy goalkeeper. I'm sure we probably have but Des was a top goalkeeper, Chris Day is a fantastic keeper. Alan Julian in his first [spell 0:30:34] was a great shot stopper. He's a replacement keeper at the moment or backup keeper at the moment.

I can't remember there being a real dodgy keeper. I'm sure you could look back and say, "Yes, but he played there, but he was good and he was good..." I can't recall dodgy goalkeepers at Stevenage, which is a good thing.

Des Gallagher was the best because he's a good all-round keeper. He was a good shot stopper and he was good at crosses and he was good at everything. Some keepers are great- Alan Julian's a fantastic shot stopper. He's not so great on the crosses. So he doesn't command his area as well as- but Des Gallagher all-round was brilliant.

Interviewer: Okay. Is there one particular goal that you remember? I mean, you can tell me several, but I'm wondering which ones really stick in the memory.

Jason Pateman: I remember one I missed. I was here, game against Woking. We were 2-1 down or something, we managed to get back to 2-2 and it was going into injury time. My wife phoned, she'd be working late and she said, "Can you get a takeaway and bring it home?"

I thought there was only a minute to go, blah blah blah, it was 2-2 against Woking. The ball was up our end so we were never going to score. I managed to get out the ground and I just heard this big roar and Craig Dobson had scored in like

the third minute of injury time and we beat Woking 3-2 and I'd missed the goal. So I missed that one.

Favourite goal? There's been so many. Barry [Howe 0:32:11] scored some good goals when he was there. He was a one-man team because you'd just give him the ball and he'd dribble past everybody and bash it in the back of the net.

There was a goal in the 4-0 game against Woking which Dave Venables scored and it was fantastic teamwork. The ball was just thrown around and managed to get it to him and he finished it.

It's so hard. You're thinking back on goals you've seen and to identify one, it's difficult. Steve Armsby scored a few in the early '80s. Gitts has scored loads. No, I couldn't say. I prefer the goals which are teamwork rather than maybe a direct free kick from 40 yards or something like that. But no, there are so many. It's difficult to even start.

Interviewer: Okay. Let me ask another way. I reckon if I said best moment, you're going to say the 4-0 against Woking.

Jason Pateman: Yes.

Interviewer: What's the worst moment?

Jason Pateman: The worst moment? Carlisle United in the play-off final.

Interviewer: Right. Talk me through it.

Jason Pateman: At Stoke. We were in the conference, as it was then, and we were playing Carlisle in the play-off final to go up into the football league. It was the [West League was in charge 0:33:30].

I think we'd beaten them and drawn with them in the league and not that we expected to win, but we were confident that we were going to win. We went in a people carrier, the guys that you stand with, and there were about seven of us in the car, and we were so excited going up to the game, really excited. Went to the Britannia Stadium at Stoke, that's where the final was that year. Again, there was a bit of banter as we were going into the stadium. There were Carlisle fans walking towards the stadium and we were shouting- not abusive, just friendly banter, you know, just out of the car window.

Interviewer: Yes, the good stuff.

Jason Pateman: Yes, 'small town in Scotland' type of thing. That type of thing. It was really good banter. I actually like the Britannia Stadium, it's a really nice stadium, it was the first time I'd been there.

We were confident we were going to win and they just didn't perform and we lost 1-0. We had an opportunity right in the last minute when our right back. What's his name? I can see his face, can't remember his name.

He had an opportunity and literally had just the goalkeeper to beat for five yards out and he hit it straight at the goalkeeper and we lost the game 1-0. That's probably the worst I've ever felt at a Stevenage game because we were so confident we

were going to go up into the football league and it was just like (Exhales) deflated. The journey back was just silence, the whole trip. We just didn't know what to say or do. We were so deflated.

You can't knock the players for effort, it just didn't work that day. Whether it was nerves or whatever, they just didn't play football.

Interviewer: Were you at the play-off final to get up into league one?

Jason Pateman: I wasn't, no. That was against Torquay. No, I didn't go to that. Some weekends I have work commitments and I can't go to certain games, so particularly the last two or three years I've been having to work Saturdays or whatever, so I can't get to... Not every Saturday, I try to get to as many games as I can, but no, I didn't go to the play-off final unfortunately.

Interviewer: I'm wondering what you think about the team now and what you think the future might be for Stevenage? Are you optimistic?

Jason Pateman: Yes, I am. The thing that's noticeable about the team that plays week in, week out at the moment, the core of it won the conference. So they're two leagues above where they were then and they managed to get promoted last year.

They're doing okay this season. I'm sure they'd like to be in a better position, they're mid-table, but to think that it's basically the same team that won the conference, that shows how good

those players are and how good the management is to motivate those players.

We could probably do with a quick, pacey centre forward. I think we're lacking somebody who has a bit of pace. We're probably lacking a bit of pace all over the park, to be fair. Our defenders seem to be a bit one paced. Lawrie Wilson's probably the quickest. He's playing midfield at the moment.

Yes, it's all good. As I said, my only concern is if they turn the terrace into seating, which is the likely step if they get- And I would want Stevenage to get promoted, I'm not saying we should stay at this level or the levels below.

But things are looking good. The players obviously have a lot of faith in the manager and the coaching staff, maybe the fans didn't when he got reappointed because of his previous spell. But things are looking good. The stadium looks fantastic, the plans for the north end look brilliant, so hopefully that comes to fruition.

Yes, things are looking good. It's just trying to get people into the ground. There's got to be a way of trying to get more people into the ground, whether it's, you know, they said earlier in the season about the ticket prices going up and yes, the financial times are hard for most people nowadays and it was quite a steep rise, to be fair.

Interviewer: What did it go up to?

Jason Pateman: Last year, £12 I think, or about £13. It's now 17 or 19, depending on what category you go. So it's almost a fiver it's gone up. Which is a lot, week in, week out. Obviously if you

get your season ticket then you get reductions. But I stopped getting a season ticket because I was missing too many games and it wasn't beneficial for me to have a season ticket.

But maybe encouraging the kid, kid-a-quid or whatever. Do it every game. Just get the kids in because that will get their parents there, or hopefully get their parents there, or a guardian or something, so they'll be paying more money.

So I can understand why the club needs the money and needs to increase because they've obviously got more they have to pay out for, but you need to encourage the kids. There are so many schools round here, you know? Kid-a-quid, possibly, I don't know.

But yes, things are looking good. The stadium is going to be magnificent if that North Terrace gets done. But the pitch is looking better than I've ever seen it. There's a lot of hard work gone in there. I don't know much about the infrastructure behind the scenes, but it looks good.

END AUDIO

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