

File: BMG Carl Grady.mp3

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START AUDIO

Interviewer: Can I have your name first of all please?

Carl Grady: Yes, it's Carl Grady.

Interviewer: Right. Was that Carl?

Carl Grady: It is, yes.

Interviewer: Okay Carl, thanks for sparing the time. I know you're a busy man, but can you just tell me your age please?

Carl Grady: Yes, I'm forty-seven.

Interviewer: Forty-seven. You live in Stevenage?

Carl Grady: Yes, Pin Green.

Interviewer: Excellent, and you are, I can see from your uniform, you're a steward here down at the Lamex.

Carl Grady: That's right, yes.

Interviewer: How long have you been a steward?

Carl Grady: Since the beginning of the season.

Interviewer: Okay, so you're new kid on the block.

Carl Grady: Yes.

Interviewer: Have you been supporting Stevenage before that?

Carl Grady: Yes. Yes, for a while.

Interviewer: For how long, roughly?

Carl Grady: Oh, a couple of years.

Interviewer: Okay.

Carl Grady: Since they got into the league.

Interviewer: Okay. Did you support a different club before that?

Carl Grady: Yes, Sunderland.

Interviewer: Sunderland?

Carl Grady: Yes.

Interviewer: Well why not, why not? I supported Newport county.

Carl Grady: Oh, right.

Interviewer: Anyway, Carl, the main focus on these interviews today is to talk about the Tottenham games, but do you want to tell me just a little bit about what your day involves, as a steward? From the moment you arrive at the ground? What time do you get here, for example?

Carl Grady: Yes, we get here for 1:00, and then we sign in, and then obviously we have a debrief of what's going to go on in that game, and then we do a sweep of the stadium.

Interviewer: Now what do you mean by a sweep of the stadium?

Carl Grady: Basically we check to see if there's anything, packages or anything, that's been left. So we just check, make sure it's all safe for the spectators and everything.

Interviewer: Right, okay, so you're talking a general security sweep.

Carl Grady: That's right, yes.

Interviewer: Okay.

Carl Grady: Yes, and we do obviously the tunnel, and obviously the playing area, and also the tunnel itself.

Interviewer: Right, and do the numbers of stewards vary according to the size of the game?

Carl Grady: It can be more when, obviously, the bigger games are on. It's roughly about 40-50 stewards.

Interviewer: At any given point?

Carl Grady: At any given point, yes.

Interviewer: Right, okay, and you've all got specific duties allocated, have you, or do you float about?

Carl Grady: They do change from time to time, obviously sometimes I'm on the tunnel, which I'm doing today, but obviously I can be at gate 15 or 16, or even doing the East end.

Interviewer: Right. So you get a bit of variety?

Carl Grady: Occasionally I get, and I'm on call-out for the South stand today, if it's very busy against Wickham.

Interviewer: Okay, so if you've got your little communication device here and it goes off, I'm going to have to terminate this in a hurry, am I?

Carl Grady: Yes. No, I'll get called by one of the supervisors, and then they'll, yes, but I'm all right at the moment.

Interviewer: Okay, well I'll tell them where to go, don't worry. Okay, as I said before, we're looking particularly at the Tottenham games this season.

Carl Grady: Right.

Interviewer: Now you were here, presumably, working on the day of the first Tottenham game?

Carl Grady: Yes, we were, yes.

Interviewer: How did you come to hear, first of all, that we were actually playing Tottenham in the cup at home?

Carl Grady: I was actually here when we found out.

Interviewer: You were here, were you?

Carl Grady: Yes. Actually, I was actually in Blackpool. Sorry, I was in Blackpool when I found out.

Interviewer: Right.

Carl Grady: I was actually doing some training up there.

Interviewer: Blackpool's not quite here, is it? No.

Carl Grady: No, no. I was actually in Blackpool when they did the actual draw for the thing.

Interviewer: Right. So were you watching it on television, or were you, sort of, deep in a conference, or what?

Carl Grady: I found out when I got back.

Interviewer: Right.

Carl Grady: Yes.

Interviewer: Okay, and what was your reaction to finding out we'd got Tottenham here?

Carl Grady: Yes, thrilled. Because I know the revenue and everything, and the prestige.

Interviewer: I mean, as a fan, it must be delightful.

Carl Grady: Massive, yes.

Interviewer: Then from a working viewpoint, what was your, what's the difference with your orange jacket on to the way you felt when you didn't have your orange jacket on, just as a fan.

Carl Grady: Obviously there's a lot more to security for Tottenham coming down.

Interviewer: Yes.

Carl Grady: A lot more fans were here than there are for the normal games.

Interviewer: Right.

Carl Grady: So, and obviously we had to make sure everything, we did a lot more security checks then, and be very reactive with what was actually happening in the crowd.

Interviewer: So on the day itself, do you have to put in additional security because of the fact we've got a premiership club?

Carl Grady: We were here early. We were here at 11:30 that day. So we were here a lot earlier, and then we stayed right to seeing the coach off, to make sure they were back on their coach.

Interviewer: How did the day go for you? From a work perspective, I mean.

Carl Grady: It was a long day.

Interviewer: Yes.

Carl Grady: Yes. Well it was a productive day.

Interviewer: It went smoothly, did it? Any little problems, or perhaps you're not allowed to tell me?

Carl Grady: No, it went smoothly.

Interviewer: It went smoothly. Good.

Carl Grady: Yes, yes.

Interviewer: Good, and then back as a borough fan, you must have been delighted at the result?

Carl Grady: Yes. Absolutely, yes.

Interviewer: But you didn't go to White Hart Lane?

Carl Grady: I couldn't, unfortunately, work commitments.

Interviewer: Oh dear. Okay, so we've got this far in the cup this year. Further than we've ever done before.

Carl Grady: Yes.

Interviewer: For the future, what would you like Stevenage to achieve now? Another promotion, or do you think we ought to stop where we are and consolidate?

Carl Grady: It's the championship where it needs to go. So they need to get three points today against Wickham. They've got so many where they've given away two goals, and then they're having to play catch-up all the time. So if they can get past that hurdle, and then just consolidate, because they've got a lot of home games.

Interviewer: Right.

Carl Grady: So convert those into wins, and then we should be there, or thereabouts. The key game will be the Carlisle game.

Interviewer: Indeed. So would you be happy to see us actually reach the playoffs, and maybe even win those?

Carl Grady: Yes.

Interviewer: You would?

Carl Grady: But then there'll be a lot of investment would need to be done.

Interviewer: Yes. Where do you think the money would come from?

Carl Grady: Sponsorship, yes.

Interviewer: Yes. Because at the moment the crowds, as we know, aren't that big.

Carl Grady: Crowds, yes. Yes.

Interviewer: So you think that that money would come in from other sources, do you?

Carl Grady: It would be, yes, clubs, yes, yes.

Interviewer: Okay.

Carl Grady: So I think they'd get the sponsorships up.

Interviewer: But we're going to go and win the championship next season, by the sound of it, are we?

Carl Grady: I wouldn't say that. Stability, stability, I think, yes.

Interviewer: Stability, yes.

END AUDIO

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