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Interviewer: Okay. Can we just start by you stating your name?

David Richardson: My name's David Richardson.

Interviewer: What's your involvement with the club?

David Richardson: I started here as a fan at the football club, later moving on to being a photographer and then the videographer. Now I'm back doing photography again.

Interviewer: Okay, so when did you first become involved with the club?

David Richardson: I first became involved with the club, filming wise, back in 2001/2002 season. It might have been 2002/2003 season. Before that I was doing photographs. The photographs I started taking were from the side of the pitch. I was using a 0.3 megapixel camera. They were being used - I created my own website. I used to go home and away games, the fans and I had the pictures on the website with a little bit of talking about

what we were doing, going round different fish shops, what the burgers were like at different places and the programmes.

Then I got a 1.3 megapixel camera and it had a good optical zoom on it. Steve Watkins, who looked after the website with Spencer, said, "Can we use your photos for the website?" and I said, "Yes, no problem at all." I supplied them with my photos from where I was taking and it moved on to me actually getting pitch side access. I was actually sat by the side of the pitch taking the photos and they were going to the website.

My role then developed more into managing the helpdesk with Spencer ____ [0:01:37] and Steve Watkins needing help on it. Really that was where it all began really if you like. Then one day my sister, Janet, who looks after the kit, Roger didn't have anyone to film the game. They were short. My sister said, "Well my brother does filming," which I've done plenty of filming in the past, short stories, etc., and so they asked me to film one game, which was, I think it was Stevenage v Luton if I remember rightly. That was on VHS those days.

I did that game for them and then Roger said, "Can you do the next one?" I said, "Well I don't want to take someone's job away from them," and he said, "No, they were doing it as a favour. We like the quality of what you've done, can you carry on?" I've done the filming ever since for the club, right up until we moved into the football league and then the BBC took over on the filming. I do the pre-season friendlies when they're needed and any reserve games or under 18s etc.

Interviewer: Were you a supporter before you became a photographer?

David Richardson: Well I've always been interested in photography but when I started taking the photos for the club, it was a supporter, purely a supporter. I'm in IT as well so I created my website because obviously I didn't know about the club's website, about how I could get involved in that, so just enhance it by having my own. I also set up a website for the fanzine, the Boro fanzine so that was quite good.

Interviewer: When did you start supporting the club?

David Richardson: Well it's more because I'm a Stevenage born and bred person. I started here in the Athletic days when Danny Dance used to play. I was only a little lad in those days. Mum used to look after the tea shop, or the tuck shop as they called it in those days I think. I used to watch it and then it all got dug up as you know and the pitch, the grounds weren't available. It was probably in the late '80s I would say, a friend of mine who I worked with, he was going to the football and he said, "Do you want to join us? There's a group of us," and so I thought, "Yes, why not?"

I went to the one game, it was an away game, all nice and close in those days and that was it. I just went to every game then afterwards, home and away, it was great.

Interviewer: You lived in Stevenage for quite a while. How has the town changed in the time that you've grown up?

David Richardson: It's changed quite a bit. I mean the stadium has changed, as you're probably aware. It's changed a lot. It used to have just

the odd little stands either side. The town itself, where the Westgate Centre is, that used to be just a big car park. Obviously you get the lottery grants now so the town gardens and the town hall have been done up, which is quite nice. The lakes have all changed. There's still lots still the same.

At the south end of Stevenage, down by where the Hertford Road is, where Kimbolton Crescent and the other side is, that used to all be fields when I was younger and it's now houses. Things do change.

Interviewer: Do you prefer to be in the crowd or do you just prefer to be doing photography or doing the filming?

David Richardson: I prefer to be filming. I have such a great vantage point. I'm above everybody else. I see everything that's going on and I can track the action, see what's happening and enjoy it. When I first started, I did have a problem to start with because I realised I'm recording sound and I had to stop cheering. It was only two games but it was like, "Yes," when we scored a goal. It was good. It was quite a big change actually because of going to do the filming, you've got to be impartial, tracking the action and give a good overview.

It's all changed now for what they get used for. Before it was for maybe the managers to look at and the referees, now the players all look at it and they all do analysis and all sorts of stuff with the footage. The photography side, again, you have to be quiet, you're on the pitch taking photos but you can still inside enjoy the goal when one happens. You swap ends usually so you can have the Stevenage end in full view so you can see where we're attacking so you get a good picture.

A few of my pictures have been used in the programmes. There's one of Chris Day, which was the front page of one of the programmes last year so that was quite nice. All voluntary on the photography side, I don't get paid for it but I enjoy it so it's good.

Interviewer: When you're filming, is it just you by yourself?

David Richardson: When I'm filming?

Interviewer: Yes.

David Richardson: Yes. It's usually just myself unless it's a big game, then the BBC might send someone along or Sky or Setanta. Yes, it's just generally me. My footage was used on Setanta quite a lot. Every single home game, they took highlights for and put it on there. It goes back even further than that because before Setanta came along there was a company called TFFC, which is the footballers football channel. That was a web based company and we were supplying them with footage.

Also, I created a five minute clips of the games then to put up but also editing other clubs as well, their clips as well so it was quite good. It was really enjoyable. Then it went bankrupt and then it all went pear shaped.

Interviewer: Do you only film from on top of the stand where that clock is?

David Richardson: Yes, where the clock is, that's the gantry and the red doors open up and you film from that angle. The only problem with the gantry, it's about two feet too close to the pitch.

Interviewer: Would you ever want to film on the pitch, near the pitch, around that area?

David Richardson: I have done what they call OB, which is Outside Broadcast. I was camera three on the pitch in the centre. One of the problems with the gantry is you can't see both corners. You can see one corner but not the other corner. If you've got two cameras up there then you've got no hope of seeing both corners. I was in quite a crucial position being the third camera down below, forgetting the corner when it was corners happening or when action was happening down that end.

That was good. It was good fun, hard work but good fun. I used to supply videos as well and then obviously now it's DVDs.

Interviewer: Do you find it's hard to keep track of the action or is it generally just something you've become accustomed to?

David Richardson: No, it's very easy. For myself, I've got plenty of years experience. I've filmed other places as well but yes, I've been filming for a long, long time. I started in IT at British Aerospace Space Systems, ___[0:08:48] in those days, which then became MM Space Systems, now it's Astrium. Yes, I used to make short movies. One of the guys I made movies with was a guy called Paul Hills. He directed 'Boston Kickout' which is the

film based in Stevenage, which is actually partly based on my life which is why the lady in it is called Mrs. Richardson, which is based on my mum.

One of the things I wanted to be when I was a child was I wanted to be an astronaut but I had glasses when I was about 12/13 so that was my dream over. It didn't stop me from writing to NASA and asking them what was needed. I've always filmed, I just love it.

Interviewer: Have you had any problems with lighting within the ground and with background noise interfering with the sound?

David Richardson: No, not at all. You get the ambience of the crowd. A couple of experiences I have had from away games I've filmed is the gantry is quite close, connected to the actual stand and so when you get the fans all banging on the back of the stand, the whole gantry starts to wobble. You're in it and it's wobbling while you're trying to film. It usually only happens when a goal has been scored or something.

You can see it on some of the old videos from when Sky had them where the camera is moving just slightly. You can just see a slight movement of the camera. No, I love it, it's great. I mean the sound, you want to pick up the sound. I was using an onboard microphone, now I use a directional microphone so that it picks up the actual players. You can hear the players as they're going across the pitch. Whoever has got the ball, you can hear them all shouting to each other.

Interviewer: Is new technology more helpful now than it was before in both shooting video and taking photos across?

David Richardson: Yes, definitely new technology is much better in the sense of if you've got the money - that's the key, the money - you can get a five store, which is like a hard drive, so you can record straight to a hard drive and then you connect it straight into the PC or the Mac and then do your analysis from it or burn your DVDs. I progressed up from videos and then moved to a hard drive DVD recorder, which is what I used to use here.

Interviewer: Do you do all the editing of the matches?

David Richardson: The managers have unedited copies, so does the ref. When I first started, one of the things that inspired me as a fan was I could never get a copy of a game. I spoke to various people and they were interested. For my own benefit to start with because I wanted it as a fan, I used to edit down the games, put action replays in and just make them really nice, credits, titles and all sorts of stuff. Then the club shop started selling them to fans, which was really good.

Then the numbers of people that were interested dwindled down. It wasn't really worthwhile - well the club didn't lose because they didn't pay anything for them. They made from anything that was sold, from the cost in the early start. For my time, it was not worth it. It was taking up so much time but had there been more interest then I would have carried on doing it. It moved from being more of a fun thing to something I wanted to do, "I'm doing this job." It's good but it's always still fun. The filming was always fun, if that makes sense.

Interviewer: Have you ever filmed for live broadcast?

David Richardson: I have, yes. I did a game here, as I say I was camera three, and that was the footballers football channel. That was a live game. I was camera one, but that wasn't for Stevenage, that was for a London based team. I'm trying to think who that was. It was down the A10. I can't think of where they are now, which club it was but I know when I get there. Yes, I was camera one and they had the satellite dish broadcasting straight out so it was good.

Interviewer: Outside of football, do you make short movies or any kind of movie?

David Richardson: Not so much these days. I tend more to do weddings, people want weddings, that sort of stuff. I've not focused too much on weddings because they're on a Saturday and the football is on a Saturday. Yes, it is weddings and school plays. I try and do stuff for the community. Like for example, Roebuck School, which is just round the corner from here, they recently just had a whole new school built and the old school closed down last week. They had a big massive balloon launch and when the kids go back on Monday, they go back to the new school.

I was there for the head mistress, Jane Phelps, and I was taking video for her of the occasion. I actually went round to the school with a video camera and just filmed a walkthrough of the school. Then I took pictures of each classroom in like 360 degree so I'm going to stitch them altogether so they've got a memory of what they looked like. There actually was one from here.

Someone did here on the website a long time ago, took pictures all round the pitch and you could actually do a rotation round. Steve Watkins did that I believe, it might have been Spencer but it was good.

Interviewer: Okay. Have you ever made films around the Stevenage area? How is the area for generally filming?

David Richardson: Yes, no, it's quite good. You have to get permission from the council. In the early days we didn't. We made a short film called 'More In Than Out'. Actually that was a long film, that was a two and a half hour film called 'More In Than Out'. That was done a lot in Chells. That was what 'Boston Kickout' was based on, which is quite good. I made a film myself called 'Non Compos Mentis' which is done down Broadwalk Crescent way. That was a 10 minute short. That was good.

There's others, there's 'Hill 176' which we filmed on the hill up to the lakes. That was really good. There's another one which was really, really good actually, 'The Harry Allen Mystery'. I had many roles in that one. I was on the youth mob, the guy had to get to a hospital appointment in the hospital from where he lived and he had to walk there. He went through Stevenage to get to it. It was all done as old black and white style so there was no talking. It was all done with pictures, captions.

He met a preacher who he then gave money to and then got chased by this preacher because obviously he was being sold the money. So he had jobs chasing me, which I was one of the jobs. Then there was a pantomime horse that chased after him, I was the rear end of that. There was the Klu Klux Klan and I was that as well. Then there was a diver that actually came out of the lakes-

Interviewer: I don't think you should confess to that on tape.

David Richardson: No, probably not, no. It was all in the spirit of humour. That actual film actually went to be shown in Germany. I changed all the credits to German credits for German TV. That was good. Again, that was Paul Hill directing so it was good. Yes, so there's a few. It all goes back to the old days of watching 'Grease' and just being a child and just playing the parts in the park with your friends and just having a laugh really, when you weren't playing football.

Interviewer: Do you take film and photographs here just out of passion, your love for the club? Say if another club came to you and wanted your services, would you turn them down or would you take the opportunity?

David Richardson: If it was photography then yes, probably. It depends. I have a passion for the club so they get my services free on the photography side. Also, I help them out with their IT as well in the office. It depends on the financial situation at the time. I mean if I was not working and I needed the money then yes, I probably would have to but if I had the choice then no, I would rather be here, doing the photos here. I get on well with quite a few people here, the background staff and the manager and the players.

I did actually film one event for the club which was called 'Boro's Got Talent'. That was quite good. They had a training session during the day and then all the players took it in terms to come into the main area and they all dressed as different

things. That was very good. Then you had the managers and the management team all being the judges. It was quite good.

Interviewer: How do you get the perfect photography? I can imagine it can be quite difficult in football where it's moving about all the time. How do you capture that perfect moment?

David Richardson: Well nowadays it's a lot easier. In the old days what I used to do was I did a lot of research on the camera, different cameras and I would try them out beforehand. My test that I did was on a speeding car. I would press the button and then see where the car was in the frame. If the car had gone out of the frame then that was no good to me. If the car was just halfway out the frame then that could be a possibility. It was better if it was in the middle of the frame.

I found the one that suited me. It was great. It had an angle change on the lens so you could rotate to 180 degrees up and down without actually affecting the way you hold it. It was really good. When I was in the crowd in those days, I could actually just put it up above and just angle the camera down and just take the pictures. Then I could see where I was taking the pictures.

Interviewer: Okay. Was that a test just to test the shutter speed?

David Richardson: That was, yes. That was the shutter speed. It's not so much the shutter speed as well, it's how long it takes when you press the button to take the shot because the shutter speed is how fast it opens and shuts but on some of the cameras you can

press the button, you can still have a 5,000 shutter speed. You press the button but it wouldn't actually have the picture still in the frame, it had gone because the internal workings, the digital cameras in those days were quite slow.

I mean now I use a Canon 7D and it's got 19 auto focus points on it. It's got more or less depending on what settings you have. You can just take loads and loads of pictures. You can just click and click and you can do nine photos in one split second. Then you can choose the one you want. Because it's an 18 megapixel camera, you can zoom in in different areas using a bit of software to enhance the colours, any focusing or sharpness, you can do all that on it.

One of the other cameras I had was a Casio which was really good. That did slow motion. That could take 40 frames in one second and that was great. That was a really good camera to use. Just when, for me, I looked at the end quality result of the picture, you could just see a tinge round the outside so that wasn't for me. It was a good picture. Anyone else would be happy with it but it wasn't good enough for me, which is why I got the Canon 7D.

Interviewer: Moving on to football, is there a particular favourite player that you've had since you've been watching Stevenage?

David Richardson: There have been quite a few different players. Stevenage Athletic before Borough was Danny Dance. Stevenage Borough, there's quite a few different ones, different characters. Gary Crawshaw was quite a good character, he was quite funny. Obviously Barry Hayles was awesome, a defender, became striker by Paul Fairclough. That's pretty amazing. He did a lot for the club. He was good to watch.

You had different characters out there. I suppose I haven't really got one favourite. I mean Taylor was good in goal when he was in goal for us. There's - what was his name? We had a fanzine, Martin Gittings, he was quite a good player. I liked him from the old days. 'Gitts Is Up' was the fanzine, title of the fanzine, which was good.

Interviewer: Is there a particular squad that you felt was the best from what you'd seen at Stevenage?

David Richardson: I actually did like, when we first joined the Conference, the team we had then were fantastic. It was all push, push, attack, attack and it was all good passing. It was really good fun to watch. Every player worked for each other. I think the squad in those days wasn't that large. I think there may have been about 16 players I think maybe, maybe a bit more, not many. It was very consistent. Everyone worked for everybody else. It was like try and keep hold of everybody because obviously the good players go.

Other than that, the team we've got at the moment are playing really well. I think the current team we've got, they're doing really well. I like passing football rather than hoofing it up in the air and just hope. So as long as we pass the ball around then I'm happy. It makes it exciting. If you go back to the last manager, his philosophy was, "We may lose three goals but we're going to score four."

It was quite exciting games, Mark Stimpson that is. As I say, Graham Westley has done a great job since he's been back. He's a good manager and the team are playing really well.

Interviewer: Since you've been watching the games, have you noticed any changes in terms of the number of the crowd and the atmosphere as Stevenage have come up through the ranks?

David Richardson: Yes. Our best games used to be against Woking. We used to have great fun against them. The banter was really good. When we used to go to Woking to watch the game there, they'd have the old police on their horses as well. There's one game in particular I remember, the Woking fans had these numbers and as the goal scores were being changed, they kept putting the numbers up to show the score results, which was quite good. We're winning 3-1, that sort of thing. That was a good bit of fun and we gave them a lot of banter.

I think that from my experience banter away is much, much better than at home. I haven't been away this season. It's been really fantastic. You get into it and it's just awesome.

Interviewer: Do you think there are more passionate fans at away games?

David Richardson: Well it's the same fans that come to the home games, the majority of cases. It's just that there's not that many of them and they make a lot of noise. They do make the effort. I mean there was one game for some of the fans who went to Hayes. It was Christmas and they did a fancy dress. I might actually have some pictures of those. That one was dressed as a monk and that sort of stuff. It was a good laugh. It's like a 0.3 megapixel picture so it's not today's standards.

Yes, I think the crowds have gone up slightly but not much over the last couple of years. I mean that's down to the fact that Stevenage, although we're in Hertfordshire, we're not a

high earning town. It's the lower end of Herts if you like, whereas you've got St Alban's which is quite high, if you know what I mean by that. I'm a councillor as well at one of the schools. Sorry, governor at a school and we've done some stats and Stevenage is quite low. That doesn't really reflect on the prices because the prices have gone up quite a lot and a lot of people can't afford it.

I know we do the odd days, family days but a bit more promotion really on that side to get people to come in, look at the game, watch the game.

Interviewer: Yes. I'm from ____ [0:25:34] as well so I follow Watford. They advertise quite a lot, trying to get the local people in, if you get more than 10,000.

David Richardson: Yes, that's good. I mean for me, it's like we need to give out more tickets to schools. I know we give some away to schools but a lot more tickets to schools and make it so they have to bring a parent with them, an adult with them. Then obviously the club gets that adult paying to come in but the club also make because then they've obviously got an adult and kids in the stadium that want food and drink. You've got a revenue coming in and then obviously that revenue can then go towards paying the players wages or upgrading to get new scoreboards or doing the North Stand.

Interviewer: Is there a particular away game that stands out as one of your favourites? I know you talked about Hayes before.

David Richardson: Yes, Hayes was good actually. It was actually a very good game but it got called off with eight minutes to go. I think we were winning 3-0 but there was a goal on the halfway line, it was a great volley, just straight over the keeper into the back of the net. That was a quality goal. It was nice. It's not far as well, Hayes, it's just down the road.

Interviewer: When the club first played Newcastle in the '90s, were you still just a supporter or were you-?

David Richardson: Yes, I was a supporter in the first game, the first time round. I was taking photos then for myself but for that game, because I knew there'd be quite a few people, I chose not to take photos because I knew it would be quite tight. I didn't want my camera to get in people's way. I knew it was on TV as well.

Interviewer: Were you able to go to the away fixtures?

David Richardson: Yes, I was at the away fixture as well.

Interviewer: Were you able to take more photographs?

David Richardson: Yes, I did take some photos but you're quite far away from the stand, where the Borough fans were. We were up right in the corner. From that era, the Swindon game is one that sticks out the most to me because the wind was so much, there was a really strong wind. The goal keeper kicked the ball out of his area against the wind and it came back just on his 18 yard

box. It was pouring down with rain. Everybody had these macs on to keep themselves dry if you like but it was all open where we were so you got soaked through. It was a good game to watch.

Interviewer: For the recent Newcastle game, were you able to film here or did you take photographs?

David Richardson: No. I had my children for that game and they didn't want to come unfortunately so I couldn't actually come to see that game, which was a big shame. I wanted to.

Interviewer: Now that the club is probably at its highest point in its history, where do you think the club goes from here? Does it need to stabilise itself in league one or does it need to just keep pushing further and further?

David Richardson: I think from past experiences of looking at other clubs that have gone through, there's been a spate of clubs that have gone through from the Conference to Division Two and then up to Division One and then they've dropped back down to Division Two again. From my point of view, if we can hold our position in Division One, get some stability and grow the fan base. We need more than 2,500, 3,000 people coming in.

There's no reason why we shouldn't have more people coming in. We're quite close to London I realise but a lot of people like West Ham and Spurs around here and Arsenal. We've just got to try and inspire them to come in, get them in. Stabilise our position, work on our fan base and then just don't drop out of

Division One, that's the key really because then we'll get our stands all done.

I mean Phil's bought the [Bradbury end 0:29:37] site which used to be the social club for British Aerospace and he's got plans for what he's going to do with that. That will be a really good training ground for everybody. He's got big ideas and if he can keep pushing forward then that's great. Anything I can do to help him I will.

Interviewer: Do you think the club needs to change its image to attract more fans? At the moment it still might be seen as a loyal club, [still non league 0:30:04] and you need to say, "We're league one now. We're in the league and we're here to stay"?

David Richardson: Well I think so. I mean the North Stand, to e, is the biggest problem. It's got a big gap at the side. It needs to be just finished off really. I mean you've got Southampton, which I think they moved up from league one to the championship, didn't they, recently? I mean their stadium is absolutely fantastic. Obviously that's being in the premiership anyway but that's what we should be aspiring for. It depends on how much space we've got to build either side.

I mean one of the things that I did try pushing with the club was to have the video feed put in each of the rooms, these boxes so then people can actually see the game. Put it on a delayed feed for about 10 seconds and then people can then just watch the camera position and it will just add the enhancement of these boxes.

Canvey Island, they actually had their camera connected up to the club house and before the game would kick off the fans

would wave at you as they came out of the club house because they were on TV, they're happy. It's just all little things that can add.

Interviewer: Do you think Stevenage fans, being in league one, is it more important to draw a big fixture in the FA Cup, get to the third round and get a big team or is it more important to see how far you can go within the tournament?

David Richardson: To me, it's each game as it comes really. If we get a big club, great, it's good. They can come to Stevenage. Obviously we had Newcastle here and we've been to Birmingham, which we actually switched to them rather than staying here. To me, if the quality of the football is good, it doesn't matter to me who the opposition is really. If we have good football on the pitch then I'm going to watch them either way. It's just who I am really.

Interviewer: Do you think the club can keep the players it has right now in the next season, not let too many players go and steadily improve?

David Richardson: Yes, I think they can. I think that they should be able to keep the players. I mean they've got a good bond. I've been quite lucky because as I say, I've done filming outside of just the football for them and how they interact with each other, how they all get on with each other. It's great. It reminds me of when we won the Conference the first time round, when we didn't get promoted, how the team all connected and worked together. That's quite crucial.

As long as they respect each other and the management team and they give 100% and do a good day's work on the pitch then great. Obviously you have some players who will struggle as you progress up and they may not make the grade because they were Conference players, now they're Division One players. Are they really Division One players and can they prove themselves out on that pitch, keep their place?

Interviewer: Well Stevenage, they seem to have two major teams, there was the Paul Fairclough team and the recent team. What do you think made those teams successful? Why do you think the teams in between, why they weren't as successful?

David Richardson: Well Paul Fairclough's time/era, he was a great person, great personality. He had good background staff as well, a guy called Paul - I can't remember his surname off the top of my head. He was part of the team and they all worked really well together. I mean I was quite lucky, when I went to Hereford as a fan I actually was able to get into the actual stadium and take photos of the stand with Paul Fairclough, which was great. He arranged that.

When I got there I just said, "Can I do it?" He went, "Yes, we'll get it organised," and I went through. His attitude is good. Graham Westley, he has a good attitude, mentality. You've obviously got Deano. It's a good background team they've got there together. The others didn't really stay very long really. [Stimo 0:34:14] was the longest I would say since then. I mean Taylor was a bad choice, in my opinion, because we were Conference and he's obviously used to a lot higher level so his expectations were a lot higher.

Stimo and Scott, they were quite good. They had a good attitude. Obviously he moved on somewhere else which is why we didn't carry on but that was the turning point for us. That was our first big competition we won. That was the trophy the first time round. That was good. I was quite lucky for those games, both the trophies were open top bus. I was on there filming the players. It's part of the DVD that's on at the moment in the room that people are watching.

Interviewer: Where does Stevenage players normally go after the game? Is there a particular pub within Stevenage or is it several pubs?

David Richardson: I don't really know. People I know tend to go to the club house. They meet in the club house to start with and most people just tend to go home. From when I started, they didn't have families, now they've got families and some actually bring their children, which is great. I'm not actually sure where most people go now but you do see a lot of people walk in towards the town way.

Interviewer: Were you able to attend either of the FA trophy final at Wembley?

David Richardson: Yes. I was due to film either the FA trophy or the play off final at Wembley. I had my pass, which I've brought in for people to see. I actually had permission to film the final. That was when Setanta were doing it. My boys wanted to go and see it so I said, "Right, I'll take you to the trophy final and I'll go and film the play off final." Unfortunately, we went to Kidderminster and

they beat us in the second leg, unremarkably I think. It was a surprise. It wasn't expected.

I was left with just one game which was the trophy final and ended up, obviously because I'd promised my boys I'd take them, I gave up the opportunity to film it and I took my boys to watch the game. That was the biggest sacrifice because to go and film Stevenage at Wembley was like a dream come true. No, I took my boys. We had a great time. We watched it.

Interviewer: What do you think the difference would have been if you are able to film at Wembley, between filming here or filming at Wembley?

David Richardson: Well I filmed the other trophy final we were in when it was at Wembley and that was quite high. You're quite far back at the main stand. It was just a nice experience. It's good to go and film different places. As I say, I've filmed at other clubs as well, especially when we've been player lower leagues and they've not had their own cameraman, I've gone along and filmed for them. For example, Rushton, when they had issues, they didn't have a cameraman, the club here arranged for me to go along and film their game for them when they played them.

I have filmed at other clubs. It's quite a nice experience but I do like our gantry, it's really large, nice and spacious. It just needs to be two feet further back, which I've already mentioned.

Interviewer: Is there any particular difficulties with filming at night or is it just the same, no problems?

David Richardson: It's no problem at all because the camera I use is a three chip camera so it's luxe, it's very low so its low light conditions are great. You could have just a single small light on and it would be okay. The worst thing to film in is actually fog because you're quite high up and the fog is normally coming down. When you look in one direction, you may just see the goal, looking the other side you may just see the goal.

Obviously around the pitch, as long as he can see both goals then the game carries on but since he can't see both goals then that's when they call the game off. That's the worst time and when it's freezing cold.

Interviewer: Is there any difficulties with rain, particularly when it hits the mic? Does it affect the sound?

David Richardson: No, not really. You hear the odd pitter patter coming down but then you've got a lot of noise. There's a lot of noise in the crowd and on the pitch. With the camera I have now, I used to use a Canon XL1S, now I use Sony Z1E. With the camera I've got now I've got a directional mic so it picks up quite clearly when a player kicks the ball even. Even when you've got the crowd noise you can hear the kick.

Interviewer: Do you think the current board has the supporters interests at heart or is it more run like a business?

David Richardson: It's definitely run like a business and that's how it needs to be run to be successful.

Interviewer: Is that what you believe, the club can be successful if it's run like a business?

David Richardson: Yes, I do believe it has to be run like a business because if it's not run like a business then obviously we might as well go back to non league. We need to be successful on and off the pitch. I mean you look at West Ham for example, they've actually got a hotel at their stadium and that's extra income coming in. The only thing the club here doesn't do, which is mostly down to the pitch really, is they don't hire it out enough for people to use at the end of the season.

A lot of clubs like West Ham again, I know from experience, they hire out their pitch for quite a while because they don't have to dig the pitch over and reseed and that sort of stuff. That's a big revenue that they get coming in.

Interviewer: What do you remember of the stadium from the earlier days?

David Richardson: Earlier days? In the East Terrace they had a little area that people could stand under to keep out of the rain. Where we are now, halfway up the pitch, there's just a small stand which had some sort of seats inside it. To the left hand side of that as you look towards the pitch, there was a little hut that used to do the coffees and teas and the sweets. Behind the South Stand, that used to have some concrete steps going across. It was quite unsightly.

I used to stand roughly where we are now just going pitch side normally. Those were the days of Kenny, when he used to play

as wing back. That was quite good. Kenny Webster I think his surname was. Yes, so it's changed quite a bit. It's improved. You look back to what we used to have, you look around at Hitchin and Letchworth, the way their pitches are, we would have been where they are had we not had the board and management pushing forward to improve things.

The only problem again, it's nice to have a nice stadium, it will be better hopefully when we get the North Terrace done and hopefully that might inspire more people to come. It is quite high, quite costly to get in to watch so I think that does deter some people. A lot of people do hear it though. There are people that I know that don't go and they say, "Someone must have scored a goal about this time of day because I could hear it from my house." It's good, we're obviously making a lot of noise.

Interviewer: Okay. I know you said you had a few of your pictures put in the programme, have you noticed any differences between when you first started coming to the club between the programmes then and the programmes over time?

David Richardson: Yes. Stuart Govier used to look after the programme and did a great job. Not only when I started on the website, I was actually helping part of the programme team, I'd take pictures for him and they'd be in the programme as well which was great. You had Keith going round doing photos for the comment. He was here doing his pictures. Yes, Stuart was really good. There's a section at the back and there's quite a few of the old programmes where my name is in there. It's a nice contribution.

I didn't get paid for it but just to have my name in there, which was great. The current programme, it's hit and miss whether my name gets mentioned even though that's part of the arrangement I've got with them. Sometimes they don't put my name in there and it's quite frustrating. It is like, "Hang on, that's my picture." I've got to say to people, "There's my picture. You can see my name next to it." It's nice. It's like I was there on that day.

The quality of the programme has improved a lot though. Obviously it's changed. I mean the price has gone up to show that as well. It used to be £1 for quite a while.

END AUDIO

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