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Male: I've heard it for fucking years (Laughter) and I always claim we still never played at Wembley. (Laughter)

Male: I'd put that on my list of disappointments.

Male: Yes.

Facilitator: So obviously over a long playing career, you have personal moments that stand out and moments that meant much to you emotionally and career wise.

What really stands out for you?

Male: Well, firstly, I guess, playing here first of all, when I was 16, which was quite memorable. And then, I left and as I said, I played at Hertford Town.

Facilitator: Sorry, just to interject- how does it feel, coming on as a 16 year old, because there are big guys playing...?

Male: Yes, I think when you're young you look at men, and you actually are a snotty nosed little kid who's still at school. I came on in a midweek game-

Male: With a terrible attitude...

Male: Probably, yes. (Laughter)

Male: It's best to make that clear.

Male: He hasn't changed much.

Male: Then I came on and played well, and then Frank said "We're playing away and it's against Rothwell" and back then Rothwell were these huge big guys and the pitch was awful. And my only memory of it, is that I was sort of moving around like a fish out of water, because they were huge.

Every time I got the ball, I got hit and whacked and that's the first memory, a daunting memory really because I think "Christ, is that the size of...?"

Because I'm never going to be that big, I'm going to get beaten up every time I play. So that was one memory, being 16 years old and going out there. I don't know, it's crazy.

Then as I said, I played for Hertford town and then in 89, I had a motorbike accident when I was on holiday and I was playing with Paul Fairclough then at Hertford Town.

I had a year out of the game and I think pretty much everybody-

Male: [Crosstalk 00:02:01] was glad about that?

Male: Yes. (Laughter) They didn't think I'd play again.

Facilitator: Did you fear for your career?

Male: No, I always wanted to, but when I first woke up, the doctors were sort of looking around and stuff and I felt the my legs and my arms, I was like "Oh right, I've just had a little bit of an accident I'll be alright because I can feel my arms and my legs" But I'd already had my arm amputated by then.

And then, sort of waking up thinking actually "Are you alright?" "Yes, what happened?" and then being told what happened and then they sort of say "Right we really don't think you should play football again" and that just didn't even enter into my mind as to "I'm not going to play again."

I didn't think I'd play to the levels and standards that I had already or where I ended up playing but I definitely wanted to play again. And Paul Fairclough was still at Hertford, so I think I missed a season and then I tried to play the following season and it was too early, because my balance wasn't right, I wasn't strong enough.

I remember playing a reserve game at Herford – I don't know if you were there? I had to be taken off and I sat in the

changing room and balled my eyes out because it suddenly hit me that I wouldn't be able to play football again.

So I thought about it for a few days and I remember [the club 00:03:25] rang me up and said "Go and play on Sundays, just go and find your feet, you've just had one game and you think it's all over but it's not"

So I went away and played a season of Sunday football over here and I remember the first Sunday game I played, they were still worried about me playing. The first Sunday game I played, we won and I scored and I think that gave me a lot more confidence as to actually "I'm going to be alright"

The following season Paul came to Stevenage and then he said "Just come over and train and see how you get on" and I felt a lot more confident and basically made the first team squad.

The first team we played was Basildon away and I remember I wasn't actually supposed to be playing. So he took 16, 13 were named or 14 or whatever it was then and I remember the guy's name, [Vic Sonage 00:04:16] was stuck in London and couldn't play.

So Cloughy came up to me at sort of 23 and said "Right, I want you to start" I said "Yes alright then"

I hadn't warmed up but to cut a long story short, they scored went one nil up, 10 minutes before half time, a guy called Colin McGill who was a right back, went down and I just sort of stole into the box.

He crossed it and then I smashed it into the bottom corner of the net and of course, you stand still for a second and think "Right, this isn't happening" We drew two all and that really just sort of set me off personally.

I think I played 90% of the games that season and we won the league by about 25 points, scored the most goals. So Cloughy really was instrumental in me coming back to football.

Then they started going up the leagues. When we got to the Premier, I was still here and I'd had a spell at ___[00:05:08] and come back. And we played Chesham away and Chesham won the league that year by again, 25 points in the Premier.

They beat us something like four or five nil and they were just in a different league. I think you played in that game and that was my last game with Fairclough because the guy who played against me, made me feel like I felt in the first ever game I played then.

He used my disability against me and it was the only time really, since I started playing. So I went away and played for Arlesey. That was the 95 season.

A guy called Robbie O'Keefe, he played at Stevenage as well, he took over the team and I arranged with him. "Do you mind if I come down? I've played in the Premier, it may be a bit of a struggle but I still want to play"

And then that year we won the South Midlands, and we played in the ___[00:05:59]. And I obviously played in that game, we won the [FA vase] in that year.

So I left Stevenage a bit disappointed, gone in to play for Arlesey, won the league and won the FA vase in 95, the first year we're there and played at Wembley.

So for me, it was massive, it was the best...Playing against Basildon away was I'd say one of my top three experiences,

because I didn't think I'd ever play again and certainly playing at Wembley is...You know.

Facilitator: And did the football community really come through for you after the accident? Was there a lot of support?

Male: Yes, we were friends. I didn't realise how much I guess, you could come together. Martin came up to me in the hospital and said "I'm going to have a game for you" and I thought it'd be over at King George's or something like that, and that was in May.

So it must have been about July, Martin said "We're going to have a game, it's going to be Stevenage Vets again a select Stevenage side of today with a few other sprinkling of people"

I thought "Okay then" and then he said "We've got it at Stevenage, they're letting us use the pitch"

And then all of a sudden, it was in the local paper, 'Local footballer nearly died' and stuff. Yes, you played didn't you?

So, it was like what we were talking about earlier about Danny Dance, ____[00:07:24], the people very old guys who played at Stevenage first of all. They all came and played because I guess they must have been 45 then?

Male: Yes.

Male: So they could still kick a ball and play. Richard Nugent had played for Stevenage and then he'd gone off, I think he was playing for Barnet at the time wasn't he?

So [Nuge] came and played, Sean Brooks came and played...

Male: A lot of good players.

Male: Yes, so a lot of the old...

Male: Me and him.

Male: Nobody wanted to come but...

Male: It's all the pros, if you remember, the likes of all the people that had gone off and made pro, like [Balget 00:07:58] and [Crosstalk].

Male: Yes, so that was...

Male: A lot of pro came back and played.

Male: So, Martin said he raised about £6,500. It wasn't just Martin, it was my girlfriend's dad at the time.

Male: [Crosstalk].

Male: Colin Budge, Graham Cox, he set something up over in British Aerospace, but I mean, there were a lot of people working behind the scenes. There were about 13,000 people there weren't there?

Male: There were about 16,000.

Male: Yes, Martin sort of headed it up, quite a lot of people really and that was very memorable.

Facilitator: I know this is kind of a horrible question, but how does that make you feel?

Male: What?

Facilitator: When you see everyone coming together like this? Obviously sometimes in football, bad things happen, you can get abuse from the stands and that. But when something like this happens, do you feel..?

Male: Yes, I didn't expect that, I mean Martin didn't even expect how well the turnout would be?

Male: It took about five months to organise.

Male: It snowballed. Well, it was initiated in July of 89 and it just...

Male: [Crosstalk 00:09:11].

Male: Yes, I just didn't think there would be so many people, and then he said "We've raised £6,500" it was like...You just don't think about it really and it was a shock.

I got a bit emotional didn't I? We had a little bit of a...

Male: You came in and kicked off.

Male: Yes, I came in and kicked off.

Male: He wanted to play in the game.

Male: But there was just no way I could play.

Male: Well, I never liked playing with him anyway, so I was happy with that. (Laughter)

Male: It's always about me, isn't it? (Laughter) But yes, that just set me up and sent me on my way really. I just thought, from then on there was no way I wasn't going to play.

Facilitator: It gave you the impetus to..?

Male: Yes, and you know, I started off by then, when I could start jogging, I literally jogged to the shops and back and then I got a bike and actually rode around the outskirts of Stevenage which wasn't as big as it is now, it'd probably kill me if I did it now. (Laughter)

But, yes...

Facilitator: Are you still fit now?

Male: Yes, I'm still reasonably fit, but back then, riding around, there were still people doing their horns, winding their windows down, shouting at you. and well that just inspires you to do it, and well of course, when I came to play for Stevenage and in that 91 season onwards, people sort of think "He's made it, he's done it"

Silly things happen, I took a thrown in one day and the referee sort of went like that and everybody was laughing in the stands. (Laughter)

"I'll let you get away with this one, don't do it again" type thing. [Crosstalk].

Male: We still had the ban on doing it. And I mean I was a crowd favourite, definitely.

Facilitator: And obviously, you just mentioned about the balance.

Male: Yes.

Facilitator: What were the complications you had to overcome, that really made it hard?

Male: An arm weighs about a stone, so if you lose a stone of weight on one side of your body, when you go to stand up, your brain still thinks it's...

So really, you don't really do anything outwardly, you know, your mind and your body has to adjust to having one arm. You don't tie your shoe laces up, you learn to do lots of things...

But the balance thing, came- I wouldn't say, immediately but I can remember getting out of the hospital bed the first time, and I had to pull all these wires out of me, because I wanted to stand up

As I stood up, I was sort of like that, bent over but I had to sort of stand up and then sit back down on the bed again and then I'd be able to walk to the toilet and then I'd be able to walk down the stairs if someone was with me.

So, I think your body compensates for it all and I think it's either, certain people when they get adversity, they either go on of two ways; they let it overtake them and beat them and you sort of feel sorry for yourself or you think "Well actually I'm going to have that determination" I guess. You've either got that or you haven't'.

Facilitator: And was it something that you embraced, what you were saying about the banter with the crowd?

Male: [Crosstalk 00:12:18]. (Laughter)

Facilitator: Yes did it ever have a negative effect? Was there any discrimination, like you were saying about the..?

Male: Yes, only once in a Sunday game but as I mentioned earlier, I was playing Sunday games and there was a chap called Tony Carter playing for us.

He was a centre forward, he wasn't a brilliant footballer, but you just wouldn't want to get in his way, because he's big and...

Male: He'll be glad you said that.

Male: And he was playing the game and some opponent said something derogatory and I just switched and..."What did you say?" and he sort of came up to me and said "Listen, that's the only way people are going to beat you, by getting at you about that, so you've just got to cut that out of your mind. So forget about that rubbish, beat them with your feet"

So it only got to me once, but yes people tried it because if they can't beat you with their feet, there are people that can try and beat you by putting you off your game by talking to you.

Male: The thing with Tony as well, in my opinion, I never told you this, but I think he achieved a higher level...He was fitter and

stronger after his accident and he was more dedicated as well.

[Crosstalk 00:13:45] and more single minded and that meant it's very hard to criticise somebody that's giving you a basting.

Because he was able to really stand on his own, and how do you have a go at somebody when they're actually doing you in the air, beating you on the floor, they can pass better than you.

I mean, it's quite hard to give somebody stick and you know, even if you do, you look silly in the face of everybody else. So I think Tony's great at strength and his comeback has been better than he was.

Male: I do think I was a better footballer, yes, because I had to adapt. I couldn't run as fast, even though I was quick, I couldn't run as fast as before.

Male: It's quicker than ___[00:14:23] anyway, so...

Male: Yes, that's true.

Male: And me for that matter. (Laughter)

Facilitator: When you look back at Stevenage, how does that compare, the feeling of putting on the shirt when you're going out to play- how does that compare with how you look at the club now?

Male: Way back when I played?

Facilitator: Yes.

Male: Is there still passion because you're a local lad?

Male: Yes, I think there's a bit of envy as well really, because I'd have loved to be playing now. I'd say envy more than anything else, they've done really well.

When I left, perhaps I didn't want to leave. Sometimes things come to an end for a reason and if I hadn't have left, I probably wouldn't have played because of people coming in like [Barry Houses 00:15:17], your Simpsons, things like this, who proved that they can play pro football, and ability-wise they were better than me. So I wasn't going to play.

So, I think I was a bit angry when I first left, but again, leaving Stevenage, going to play for Arlesey, it was the South Midlands as it was then and we had very good players, playing at an average level.

So I got over that very quickly because we won the league, I think we did a ___[00:15:44] and won the vase. So you know, there are still players today who haven't played at Wembley.

Male: I think also, the way I look at it, is your pride in what you did, and grows more over the years. So at the time, because you're younger, I was between 21 and 25, when I played here.

And whilst you loved it because you had the adulation, we used to go out in the evenings after a game and people were asking you about the result and so on.

You take it more for granted, because you're young, you're 21, 22 and you don't really think too much about what wearing that shirt is.

Afterwards when you've retired, or when you've moved away, and also looking back on what the club means to people now and over those years, to me, that's when I'm more proud the longer time goes on.

And also, the friends that you made. We didn't talk about that, but we've been friends through football for years.

Male: From the day you turned up in here.

Male: Yes, and the close camaraderie, I mean you hear this all the time, but the camaraderie that you build with people when you're playing alongside them in the dressing room.

Male: It never goes.

Male: We'll bump into people here today, and we'll share stories and you'll be great pals.

Male: [Crosstalk 00:17:02] Trevor popped his head in, and we've been friends since we started. And we've been best friends ever since...

Male: The first day he turned up at the club.

Male: Tony's my best mate, and Dave's my other best mate, so it's really nice isn't it? We've still got...

Male: I mean, even coming here today, it's quite funny, those two stewards used to come and watch us. (Laughter)

Male: They just forgot.

Male: It's crazy, that guy was the year above me at school, so I've known those two... They probably wouldn't recognise me now. I've known them since they were kids.

What's that, 31 years ago? And I still get people come up to me now, who used to watch us as kids. It's a strange thing.

Male: Yes, I always look for their result all the time. But I think it was a little bit of jealousy because I wasn't able to be in the team as in the [conference 00:17:53] or win the conference and go into play league football.

Male: We'd have all loved to play against Newcastle.

Male: But that's what I mean. There's a bit of jealousy but for me to play at the Stevenage [Borough] was just... Anyone who plays for their home team club, you know, you can't beat that.

Walking in the street, going into the town centre, on the morning of the game and they go "Alright Ward are you playing today? Alright Gibbs are you playing today?"

It's like "Oh I don't know" and you don't know these people from Adam, but it's just you can't beat that feeling. You really can't.

Facilitator: So obviously being local, working locally, living locally, playing for the team, the attention of the community is almost constantly on you. How did you cope with that? How did you find that?

Male: The constant attention would be at your workplace, where you socialise, because the crowds would be anything between 1000 and 2000 people, you would come across these people in every walk of life, wherever you were in your day to day living.

So, yes it was constant. You were in the papers that week, everybody would want to talk to you on the Saturday or if you were out socialising.

Me and Dave used to go out and socialise and we could never get away from it, there was always someone who had seen the game and didn't like the way you played, there was always someone that shouldn't be in the team.

They were always asking your opinion about other players, yes, so it was...

Male: In a really small way, you get an idea of what it must be like for famous people now, celebrities now, including footballers who just can't go anywhere.

You know, the Beckhams and the Steve Gerrards, these guys, they can't go out, they can't go anywhere, because that's magnified by 100 times.

It just gave us a sort of a little view of what that would be like. But as I said before, at that age, you sort of don't really think about it too much, you take it more in your stride. It's a kind of normal way of life.

Whereas 20 years later, now, I walk around where I live Marlow, nobody knows who I am, nobody knows I played football, and you're completely anonymous. So it's a completely different thing.

Male: In those days, because I was a local player, we would get invited to go and do presentations at football clubs, so we were constantly, at the end of season, doing two or three... I did one with Sol Campbell once, at I think it was Bedwell Rangers, and you can imagine, nobody was too worried about me.

Male: But everybody locally knew more about you, than Sol Campbell. [Crosstalk 00:20:34]. The adulation was fantastic, there's no question. (Laughter)

And signing autographs in the local shopping centre. The thing is, you didn't get 100s and 100s of people wanting your autograph, but you used to get one or two every Saturday, if

you went down to town with your wife. I'd be with my wife and someone would want my autograph, and it's embarrassing because you feel like "Is someone having you on?" because it doesn't happen every few minutes, it's just now and again.

But the fact that you would do that, meant something to someone.

Male: I was down the town here and I was in the supermarket or somewhere, and this lady was looking at me as if she knew me and she had kids with her and she said "Hello" and I just couldn't click you know "Do I know this lady?" or whatever.

What transpired was that we'd don't his presentation evening down at the [Gordon Craig 00:21:29] theatre. I think it was Ricky Marshall's team, one of the local teams, and we'd shaken hands and had a photograph taken with every single one of the kids that came up on the stage.

It was 120 kids throughout all the different age groups and this lady had a picture of us, on her TV.

Male: She did, yes.

Male: (Laughter) So she had a picture of me on her TV with her son, so she thought "I know Dave" and so she said to me "I've got a picture of you on my TV"

"Oh okay" (Laughter) that's the sort of thing you get. [Crosstalk 00:22:04] and because you're living in the town, you're always bumping into people in that way. So it was surreal sometimes, wasn't it?

Male: Yes.

Male: Great years of your life.

Male: The players meant a lot to these people, because they were paying their money every week, to come and watch you play and they just expect you to know them.

Male: Yes, exactly.

Male: And they come and talk to you after the games.

Male: Give your all and be well rested and trained well and you were expected to go out as if you were a pro almost.

Male: Yes, it still happens now, when I go out in the town now. Because Stevenage are so successful, it's really nice to still be tied in with this group of players.

And although, I'm good friends with some of the people that used to be involved with the club and I know one or two of the players, I'm not directly involved. But it's still nice to be attached.

It's like you're hanging onto them. I suppose this exercise that you're doing now, may put the past in the past, but for the last 15 years since I retired, I've still felt part of this club.

Male: Yes.

Male: And that never goes away.

Male: Well you still have a strong affinity with the club don't you?

Male: I do.

Male: Because of your little piece in history and what you were able to do.

Male: It's nice.

Male: And with all that said, what we've been able to do--Martin much more than me, is insignificant in terms of what some of those early guys did. When we're talking about some of the earlier chairmen; [George Clarke 00:23:25]. You've got [Keith Burner].

Male: Keith Burner's father who passed away.

Male: Yes, the Burner's family. Those guys have been coming here day in day out, spending hours and hours of their time, for 20, 25, 30 years.

Compared to the snapshot of time that we spent here, I mean Martin is much more, because he was here on and off for 10- or 15 years as a player and he's in the wall of fame.

Male: Yes, they've done a legends thing here picked six players and the fans have voted six legends, and when you look at that board. There's the likes of George Boyd and Steve Morrison and Mark Smith ____ [00:24:12] [Hales] and I'm lucky enough to be grouped in with them, as what they call 'The Legends of the Past'.

And that's an attachment that I've got, that I can keep forever, it's fantastic and it's a real tribute. I suppose that's never going to go away, I'm never going to lose that. It's always going to be there, but obviously in time it'll become less and less important but I think this exercise has been a great exercise for giving the likes of you and me...

Male: To tell all our old stories that nobody's interested in.

Male: Exactly yes, but we can talk about all the things that we've done. The championships we've won and the other accolades that we've had and I have these conversations with people and it's not until another one comes in "Crikey we did that" and "I won that"

It just takes you way back, it's a great feeling. There's no end.

When I had the phone call from Andrew about this, to say "We'd like some of your memories" you can think of some, but just since then, it's just opened up a can of worms.

Male: You've got memories of players, memories of people who used to come in the bar afterwards...

Male: Achievements, funny stories...

Male: Funny supporters that used to come to every game and all of that.

Male: We could list them and go on and on.

Male: Your opponents in some cases that you used to get to know over the years.

Male: Yes, definitely.

Facilitator: What comes to the fore, when you think back? Is it the material success of trophies, is it goals? Is it the fans, is it performances?

Male: For me, the amount of attention that I got through the papers, because as a goal scorer, you got that attention. I couldn't wait to get the paper every week, and that was for years and years.

My parents and my family, they loved that, they enjoyed it and I enjoyed it. Because you want to be successful and you want to get well known, so that was always great.

But it wasn't just about winning championships. I think I won five championships here, United Counties, ____ [00:26:15] League, won the Premier.

It's the build up to those- someone said "What were your favourite games?" All I could say, is the last three or four games towards every championship, they were fantastic games. I could never pick one out.

Male: [Crosstalk] away when we won the League in 85, 86 and you scored. You and Phil Driver.

Male: I do remember that game. I know that the three or four games, leading to that...

Male: Yes, we talk about the fans, I mean we were away at ____ [00:26:44] which is in the middle of nowhere towards Luton and we had, how many hundreds of fans? [Crosstalk]. I think it was on a Tuesday or a Wednesday night and we won the game and we won the League by a point.

Male: They're the sort of things, we're proud of them and at home I've got this box in the loft, because [Crosstalk] won't let me have them out.

Male: Obviously.

Male: And you go through them and you can't believe how much you've won. I had a couple of Player of the Year Awards, and I'm really proud of them because you've got everyone's approval and praise.

Male: To me, mostly, it's the camaraderie of the players because they're the ones you get closest to, and the management team. Dear old Frank and Paul Peterson, Alan English.

Male: Alan English was the physio in the early days.

Male: Yes, but it's the camaraderie of the players firstly. I mean you eat and breathe with them on a daily basis.

Male: Yes, you do and I look back at that and that's what matters; the camaraderie. But when I'm playing, I felt like it was all about me, a lot of it. I wanted to get the Player of the Year and I wanted to be top.

And when I won the Golden Boot one year, that was a selfish act, to go up to the [Crosstalk 00:28:09].

Male: I think that's true, but your position; centre forward, that is the position where you do get... Alright you get a lot of the bad press as well, when you don't play well and you don't score...

Male: Those things, like for example, getting Top Goal Scorer, it's only unique to me, it doesn't actually mean anything to

anybody. It just feels great to me, a bit like the [Crosstalk 00:28:31].

Male: Yes, I'm very proud that you've got that Legends Board, and you've got that and you were one of the top goal scorers, if not the top goal scorer for the club.

Male: Yes, but there are things that just mean something only to me, really.

Facilitator: [You're in a very confident position as well, a striker thrives on confidence 00:28:49] so to have that confidence from the...

Male: Yes, but...

Male: Mine's quite confident. (Laughter)

Male: No, I was lucky.

Male: Or is that just the mask?

Male: I was lucky to have, you have to have really good [Crosstalk]. And play in good teams.

There's no question, you could put the best centre forward in the world out there and if he doesn't get the service, it's not going to happen for you.

So the fact is, I played with some of the best players. Dave was centre half, so he didn't serve me as a forward.

Male: We were all reasonable players at our level but what made a difference that year to me, was Phil Driver and Martin, because Phil Driver could find Martin from anywhere at any time.

He was a phenomenal winger, he stepped down from Chelsea, broke his leg badly and he was sort of coming back to Stevenage to rehabilitate his career.

But he was phenomenally quick, and he could just put the ball on a sixpence from the wing. And then Martin was always on hand and he could finish.

Male: I was lucky to stick it in the net.

Male: To me that was the difference with our side. We were all okay, good players but the difference was... We had a good keeper, we had good centre halves, we had reasonably good midfield players, no doubt.

But the difference was Driver and ____ [00:30:01] in my opinion.

Male: But in 85, 86, that was the case, but then when Paul came in, you needed more then and they were great players; Trebble, Venables, Hales.

Male: [Crosstalk] Yes, I mean Hales is probably the best player I've ever seen play for this club.

Male: Yes, tactically Fairclough made the tactics work and Paul would be the first to say that I scored my goals because of the way he worked which was direct in the box.

Male: Yes.

Male: And it was on volume of chances. The ball was always in the box. But it's nice, at the end of the season, if you win that Top Goal Scorer or you win that Player of the Year Award. It's like you've just done that little bit extra.

And it's great and you want people to know that you've done that.

Male: Yes, for sure. I wouldn't know. (Laughter)

Male: Dave scored a hat trick, centre half, we were playing away at [Crosstalk 00:30:55] and I don't recall ever, a centre half...I'm not sure I played in the game and I played just under 450 games.

A centre half scoring a hat trick, don't get me wrong, it wasn't the worst quality hat trick.

Male: Again, it's the best quality team. [Crosstalk].

Male: But yes, Dave got a hat trick. That's a memory he embraces, it only means anything to him.

Male: I think that's the best hat trick by a centre half, away at [Crosstalk 00:31:20] on a Tuesday night in the rain ever scored. (Laughter)

Well, I don't know if anybody else has done it but...

Male: What's it like scoring for your team in front of people, when the crowd goes up?

Male: I don't know, you'd better ask Martin. (Laughter) There wasn't a big crowd there that night but well you know...

Male: I think the respect you got from the players, that's great.

Male: Yes.

Male: We won the game because you got a hat trick. He's probably never going to get anywhere near that again. (Laughter) And to tell the truth, he never did to be fair.

Male: [Crosstalk 00:31:56].

Male: It's a strange coincidence, but Dave's career finished about 86, 87?

Male: Yes.

Male: When he tore a cruciate ligament and you never recovered from that.

Male: No, that was before Gazza. Everybody remembers when Gazza did his at Wembley and it was before then, that I had my operation.

So yes, I played at Royston after that and Nebworth but that was much more low level.

Male: His career finished really quickly.

Male: Because in those days cruciate operations, they could finish your career quickly, whereas today, pretty much you've got 99% recovery from a cruciate ligament injury because the surgery has come on so far.

Facilitator: Was injury a big fear while you were playing?

Male: No, again, you're young 21, 22, 23. Like yourself, you don't really fear much do you? You're bullet proof, you go out, and you do your best and you play with your team and you do the best for the team.

Male: Getting hurt was all part and parcel.

Male: Yes, you don't worry about it.

Male: Because we were quite a [fizzing 00:33:02] side and we used to put ourselves about a lot at the end, and I remember once coming in and I had a black eye and the centre half had basically done me over.

At every opportunity he would just bash me within a game, but we scored two and we beat this side two nil. I think it was Uxbridge but I'm not sure.

I ended up sitting in the changing room looking at Paul, saying "That was tough going" and he said "You love it"
(Laughter)

And I thought to myself, "I don't know if I do really" but we won, so that's all that matters.

Male: That's an interesting observation, and I was a centre half, and you expect them to be...I mean, you look at me now, I'm about twice the size I was.

I was as tall, but I was very slim and skinny and you do get bashed about. I was playing against centre forwards that were like 28, 30 years old, had been around that league forever.

And they want to go up and they elbow you and kick you and make sure they got one over on you. So for me, I wasn't the hardest tackler or the best in the air.

I could play a little bit and pass, that wasn't always a requirement at that point in time. (Laughter) So, I was more Alan Hansen than Terry Butcher. Let's put it that way.

But I had good players around me who were tough, I mean [Benny Tyler 00:34:16], Ricky Marshall, Timmy Ball, they looked after you as well.

Because when you were young, they were a bit older, they knew their way around, so they looked after you and they would go and smash a few people for you and Martin would do his best upfront, to knock the other centre half around a bit. So that was alright.

Male: Yes, that was a priority. (Laughter) The first thing you've got to do is to try and knock the other centre half out and then try and score some goals.

Male: [Crosstalk 00:34:40 the centre half first and then after that...

Male: Protection.

Male: Yes, protection isn't it? Because if you get up there first...

Male: A very different game.

Male: Yes, I think it's played a bit differently now.

Male: A very physical game.

Male: We're still going, we're talking about you though.

Male: I don't blame you, ___[00:34:55].

Facilitator: So recently in the press, there was a lot of mention about harder tackling and obviously you had the Aaron Ramsey injury, ___ injury a couple of years ago and it's quite a contentious issue.

Playing in the lower leagues, it's a different standard of football, there's not that protection. People do put themselves about.

Did you ever have any incidents where it got a bit too heavy handed or how you had to deal with that?

Male:

I would say, that most games had a very physical element to them. When we won the second division...Our edge was, I think we were more physical than other sides.

Technically, other sides may have been as good, but I think Paul built the side around physicality, very strongly. And as I talked about earlier, the spine of the team.

But you had to look after yourself because as you say, I mean nowadays, first tackle is a booking. The first bad tackle. In those days, always the first bad tackle was allowed and then there was a warning.

So, you could get hurt with a bad tackle early on and if you weren't careful then that could finish you for the game so you were always wary.

And I can remember Graham Pall refereeing the game and the centre half and I were basically going to war and it was getting a little bit out of hand and elbows were flying and Graham Pall, who was a league referee, and just going into it then stopped the game and pulled us aside and said "I don't care what happens between you two, as long as it doesn't overspill. I'm not bothered what you two do" and let us continue to battle away for the rest of the game providing it didn't overspill.

And that's what it was, it was physical, you had to look after yourself.

When I moved from here and I played at Wigan, I played with a couple of guys called John Lacey and Paul Price and they were ex-pros at Tottenham and John Lacey, on the first tackle of every game would wait.

As soon as the centre half would drift onto the halfway line, he would just tackle him from behind, just terribly and try and

finish him for the game, knowing the worst that he would get would be a booking, but he'd probably get the warning.

And so, knowing that that's what our players were doing, I had to be careful as well. So you had to think about where you received the ball in the park because I could receive the ball in a place that I wouldn't be and that's an opportunity for a defender to hurt you.

Now, it just sounds like a game of violence but to a degree, there was a lot of that. [Crosstalk 00:37:30].

Male: It's a physical game and yes, any physical game of sport you're going to have injuries, and I can't profess to be an expert in sports science or whatever but the injuries are different I'm sure that they get now. Stress fractures, because they're...

Male: There's not as many impact injuries.

Male: Yes, exactly, they're extending themselves more than they ever did. What we did was more bruising and an elbow or a broken nose or something.

Male: There was a lot more of that going on wasn't there?

Male: Yes, I think there was a lot more of that.

Male: But every individual's different, it depends how you get hyped up for the game, but playing with the likes of Paul [Balget 00:38:09] and people like that, they played in the Gola League and the Conference League.

I mean Paul was a pro at Spurs but there was a Southern and Northern divide to a degree and when you went up and played against teams like Rugby and Runcorn and Altringham, clearly those fans had an issue with that.

It was really angry supporters and they would set the tone for the game.

Male: Yes, that's true.

Male: I've played against Runcorn and teams like that, when the atmosphere was hostile, to say the least. And if someone gets a serious injury in the game, that just sets the tone for the rest of the game.

So whereas it should be a glamorous and skilful game of football, I remember it as a little more than that.

Male: You know, football, also it can be a dull game and then all of a sudden it can be brought alight by an incident. Not necessarily a piece of skill or a goal, but because John Lacey goes and kicks a guy in the air, that gets them going.

It's a bit like in ice hockey, you know, if you want a score a goal, you know what you do, you send your guy and he goes and smashes the guy into the boards.

So then all the adrenalin starts running, and there's a statistic in ice hockey, that's why you do it. That guy, his only job in the game is to go and smash somebody against the boards. Because then everybody gets hyped up and more percentage of goals are scored after that.

Male: It's hard to imagine that isn't it? [Crosstalk 00:39:33]. But it was like that, there's was a lot of animosity between fans.

Male: It doesn't have to be a dirty tackle, it can be an absolutely fair tackle. Talk about Ricky Marshall or Dave Cooper, [Crosstalk]

Male: He used to take off, two footed tackles didn't' they?

Male: Yes. It could be a fair tackle where they take the ball and take the fella out and all of a sudden you get a lift from that, so it's not always...

Male: Graham Roberts, came down, his style of tackling was that he used to lift himself off the ground. So he'd hit people with full body weight.

Not in a million years could he get away with that. It was dangerous tackling.

I played in a game for Wigan against Woking and Dave was watching once, where I just got away with basically, fouling everybody constantly through the game, to a degree.

It was such an atmosphere and the police escorted us off the pitch and they were baying for blood, there were about 4000 there that night.

Male: Yes.

Male: But I can't remember any football, I can just remember the game was just every tackle was [Crosstalk 00:40:32].

Male: Yes and you've got to ask yourself. I mean you played down here in friendlies against Alvin Martin, and Tony Gale and then in England we had Terry Butcher.

I mean, would those players play top professional football now, like they did then? Probably not. They were the right guys at the right time. Things have evolved.

Male: I watch Stevenage quite a bit, I watched them play Brentford the other night. It seems that when a game's gone dull, a few years ago, it would need a bad tackle or two to pick the thing up.

And I've watched a few games with Stevenage recently where the game hasn't had an opportunity to do that. It stayed dull, because if anybody took that risk...

Male: They're off.

Male: When Newcastle came down it was quite dull and the guy in midfield who got sent off from Newcastle who put in a terrible tackle, it did, it lifted the game again. But it took a player out of the picture.

So, yes it's lost, I think it's an easy thing to comment on, when you're an ex-player, it's easy to become critical, but I would say that the game has lost something.

Male: [Crosstalk 00:41:40]. It's lost that side of it.

Male: Yes, no question.

Facilitator: So, obviously being in the Hall of Legends, and having a huge amount of respect from the fans for your goals, what stands out to you? What really makes you proud of your Stevenage career?

Male: I still have an association with the club, in that I work with kids and I do coaching courses with the club. So I still have that involvement.

It always meant so much to me, to be honest with you and when I got put on the Legends Board, I mean my Mum and Dad they absolutely loved that, they thought that was fantastic.

That was the best accolade I could ever have to be honest with you. But I think I'm lucky enough to make that, because most of the other players are all modern day players.

So I'm more proud of that, than anything. It was great, having a testimonial [against Spurs 00:42:49] was fantastic. And I think since, then there's been Robin Trott and Des Gallagher have had testimonials.

So, I'm one of only three to have had testimonials. So they're very proud moments. But the Legends Board is going to stay.

Male: Could you talk me through a bit of the testimonial game?

Male: What happened is, in 1994, I suffered a shin injury. I think I only played 11 games and I was having all sorts of pain killers and things and the shin injury was progressing and getting worse.

So, I went to see a guy called Steve Canon, who at the time, was the England doctor and was sent up by Victor Green and he looked at the injury and said "You can't play anymore, one more impact and your careers over"

So I was only 11 games into that season and I had to train on my own basically, for four or five months because I couldn't train with the others.

I had an operation, they had to wait five months for the bone to harden off for the op to take place. I had the operation and then when I came back, I never got back to the fitness that I'd had and then I think the club and Paul and Victor Green, decided with the era that they were going into, I probably wasn't going to be someone they were going to take forward.

Because I was 34 then, so they decided to let me go and as a tribute, give me a testimonial. Which I was happy with, I thought it was great to go out on a testimonial.

I had the testimonial against Spurs on the Saturday and I did a player swap with a guy ____ [00:44:21] Sean Marshall had come and played here.

The fixture list meant that because I had a testimonial on the Saturday in August, on the Tuesday playing against Stevenage for Hitchin in a local cup, the county cup.

So I'd gone from playing 10 years with Stevenage, 450 odd games with them, had a testimonial, finished, then I was playing for Hitchin against Stevenage.

And in that particular game, I think Hale and [Sodje 00:44:52] were all playing that game. I dislocated my knee and I tore my cruciate ligament and my career was ended.

So I started on the pitch in 1980a and I finished in 1994 with a snapped cruciate. As if it was meant to be, I suppose, but yes and I never really played again, after that. My career was finished.

Facilitator: And what stands out for you, when you look back at your career, because it was a long career with lots of goals. Are there any goals which might stand out for you, just for how they were scored and what kind of goal?

Are there any goals that the fans always talk to you about?

Male: In the earlier days, in the early '80s, my brother Peter played down here, he's quite well known locally. Probably not as much now but at the time...

Pete was unique because he was ambidextrous and he could play and kick both feet, but perfectly as good as one another. And he was always scoring outrageous goals, here and he

scored one from about 30 yards of volley out on this pitch out here against a team called Uxbridge.

And it rifled in, and I can't ever remember ever seeing a goal, quite as good as that one. Absolutely phenomenal, and that's a goal that's always stuck out in my mind, I suppose because it was my brother. I remember, he brought it down, he hit it and it was phenomenal.

Ian Adcroft scored a great goal, we had a fantastic vase run in 1985, 86 and we were playing at White Leaf in torrential rain and if we won the game, we were going into the quarter finals.

We really thought we were going to Wembley for the first time and Adcroft hit a screamer from 30 yards and I remember that one sticks out in my mind.

Personal goals, I don't know, every goals just meant so much to me, and I was a little bit greedy like that. Any goal just meant a lot. So, I can't really pick any out from a personal point of view.

Male: It's hard.

Male: It's difficult.

Facilitator: Like I was saying before, everyone enjoys scoring a goal, whether it be on a five a side pitch with your colleagues. What is it like to score it with a stand full behind the goal?

Male:

I'm not sure if you remember it, to be honest, the excitement and the adrenalin rushes through you when you do that in front of a good crowd and I think you go into an automatic routine.

I mean, players have their routines for their celebrations don't they? And I think, in those days, whatever celebration you did, it would always be the same, and it would be instinctive.

I think I had some silly celebration, like I used to roll over in a roly poly or something. But you did it on instinct, but we didn't have fantastic celebrations in those days.

I always remember, I was very keen to celebrate with the players, lots of players celebrate it the crowd, but I'd always go to the person that made that goal.

I always did that, because I played with players that made my career really. People like Phil Driver who made a lot of goals for me and Dave Venables.

I played with a guy called Steve Clarke for a couple of years when I moved from here, who probably was my best partnership.

He went on to play at St Albans, could have played at a really good level Steve Clarke, a fantastic centre forward.

You have partnerships and I remember lots of goals, I scored was because I had a partner up front who shared that.

Facilitator:

How hard is it to take, when one of these players, who you have had a great connection and relationship with, when they move away, when they get transferred or..?

Male:

I got used to it, because I started in United Counties, I was really lucky to have progressed in each division and go up.

As every season, as we moved up to a higher division, players would disappear and they'd be let go because they weren't going to make the step up.

So over the years, I sort of got used to that. I was determined, and it meant so much to me that I wanted to progress and I was lucky to progress through the divisions.

So, every year as I got holder, I probably got a little better at doing my job. So, I was used to seeing players go.

It's quite a ruthless business anyway, you get used to that and you know if someone's going to not make the next step anyway. You can sense that's going to happen.

So I had many good partnerships and I think in the time I played here, they signed between 10 and 12 centre forwards to play alongside me each time.

Because we normally played two up front and I was lucky enough to step up and every season, I seemed to have a new centre forward and I could list them off.

I played with a guy called Steve Armsby, Steve Conner, there was Danny Dance, Dave Venables, Neil Trebble. I even played with Brian Stein at the end.

There was always a new centre forward coming in to play alongside me, so you get used to it. You do get good partnerships going and then the next season it all changes.

That's the way non-league is unfortunately.

Facilitator: And when you found that partner, do you talk about the relationship on the field? Is it a lot of back and forth, or is it instinctively..?

Male: You play and train, a lot of the sessions are built around game situations. So the training would be done with me and the centre forward.

In fact, if you trained on a Thursday in a session, whoever you were doing the session with, you knew they were going to be picked for the game on Saturday. That's how it was.

When I was playing with Venables, you were almost certain that you two were going to be playing together. When I played with Neil Trebble it was the same.

So yes you instinctively can play together, it's difficult to explain, but if you've got a playing partner, you're playing with him, you're training with him, after a while you become friends.

And most of the things you do are habitual anyway. I mean, on good teams, if you've got good habits. If you do the same thing, week in, week out in training, eventually that starts to happen on the pitch.

So, yes, you get a bond with a centre forward, and I was lucky enough to play with some really good ones. Albeit there were a lot of them, I have to say.

Facilitator: And how do you think your career would have been altered or what would have been the movements of your career, if Stevenage hadn't been your club of choice? If you'd have

been in a different club, do you think you'd have had the same ..?

Male: No, I don't think so, I think that playing for Stevenage was the thing that drove me, to be honest with you.

I started my career at Letchworth in the 1979 season, playing with lots of players that I didn't particularly know well, and it wasn't until I moved here, that I started to play with players that I did know, like my brother Peter, the likes of Danny Dance.

They were local players and you wanted to be part of that local scene. When you're 18 or 19, if you're playing with the best players in the town, you want to be part of that. It's nice to be part of the scene, if you like.

It was really exciting times, but it was just really great, playing with the best players, being part of that. Playing for the local team, you got all the attention.

You could smell success all the time with them, I think if I'd have gone somewhere else, I don't even know if my career would have gone on, to be honest with you.

I did go and play for Paul Fairclough at Hartford, for a short spell, but that was when Stevenage had a lull and then I moved away.

I also went to [Wigan 00:52:51] and I played for two years near Colchester and I had a season at Barnet.

But I generally only made those moves when things had really dipped and I moved away, always wanting to come back.

So, my career was built around the fact that I played for Stevenage, for sure.

Facilitator: And do you remember your debut and your feelings of the first time going on?

Male: I can't, I can remember my first game down here. And I can remember it was raining, I can't remember who it was against. I think my first game was away at Charnborough somewhere in a cup game I remember vaguely.

But my bigger memory is here, which would have been within a week or two of me signing and that would have been in 1980 and I would probably have been on the bench, that day in their reserves. Because I did play quite a few reserve games the first season I was here.

Because Danny Dance was the main centre forward then or the main forward and I was always coming in and out when he was injured and then gradually I got my place.

So, I remember playing. The atmosphere, you can't describe it, there might have been 200 people here, but to walk onto the town pitch with the local papers, more supporters you've never been in front of before.

We were non-league players, and it was just so inspiring, it was really exciting. And then to go into work and everybody knew that you were playing for the home town, it was a success waiting to happen.

Once they started up again, it was always going to be where it is today. Maybe not as quick, I never thought it would come in 25 years but Stevenage was always going to be a big side.

Facilitator: And where do you see the future of this club going?

Male: You sit down and think, I would say the Premier League is the best league in the world, the toughest and Stevenage are only two divisions off that.

So, it's getting that in perspective, it's huge, it's phenomenal. Where do I see them go? I think their next step is their biggest step. That's going to be the toughest step, because they've now stepped into a world where if you want a guy that's going to score you 25 goals, like I was doing, now it's going to cost them quarter of a million pounds isn't it?

I think they'll consolidate this year, I think they'll improve next year. If they can hold onto Westley, I think they may make the next step.

I think maybe, if they won't be able to hold onto Westley, then I think there might be new era coming here with a new manager in the future.

But I mean, the capacity and the logistics of the whole thing has got to change here to take it to the next step anyway, really hasn't it?

So there's more to it, than just getting a team that's going to win. The infrastructure's got to change before they move to the next level.

So it could be five or six years before they progress any further than where they are now, that's my personal opinion.

Facilitator: So are you still involved in Stevenage Town in any form?

Male:

I currently work with a local training provider, the objectives are to take young people, 14 to 19 year olds, young people that are becoming disengaged at school or young people that have left school and become disengaged, without jobs or any training.

And the idea is to give them vocational skills, personal and social development and improve their literacy and their numeracy and maths and English.

Then try to progress them on into further training or into jobs. What we've done is set up a football fitness qualification with Stevenage Football Club, where their coaches train our youngsters.

Give them some basic football skills and fitness skills, and coaching skills and then at the end of it, we progress them into an apprenticeship programme that they do here or we try to move them on into getting jobs in the community.

That's been very successful and that's been running for three years. So I'm still linked with the club that way.

I also have good friends that work in the club, Bob Makin, the Chief Exec is a good friend of mine, I play golf with him. I go to watch the games with him when I can.

So, yes I'm still attached to the club and I want to be part of the club if I can.

Facilitator:

Do you think football is a very positive aspect in young people's lives? Do you think it can give certain element?

Male: Working with the client group that I work with, clearly these are young people who have not had the support and the guidance, through their younger years.

They certainly need a lot of help now, and support. Football is a fantastic environment to encourage confidence and team building and self-esteem, sport in general actually not just football.

And the football club here do a lot in the community around sports, so I think that certainly my youth was spent around sport and football.

My children's youth was spent around football and sport and I just think kids need some way to channel that aggression, build up those communication skills and learn to mix with people and improve their social skills. Sport is the perfect vehicle for that.

So, yes I'm a great believer, sport should be encouraged to every youngster if possible.

Facilitator: It's good when clubs like this, who are a big town club, they introduce that into the community.

Male: Yes, Stevenage have been focused on that for a long time and that's been one of their aims and targets; to involve the community and do a lot more in the community.

From a PR perspective and also actually because it's the right things to do. I think all football clubs have got that agenda anyway and the government have encouraged them to have that.

So I think most clubs don't just give out football opportunities, they also offer sport in general opportunities.

But Stevenage have certainly moved that onto a new level and they're involved in schools and other communities in the town and I think that is good PR for the club and it's good for the local community.

So, they definitely encourage involvement in sport.

Facilitator: And back to your playing career, when you played were there any times when you did feel like the fans were, not so much, getting on your back, but they were down on the whole team?

Male: Often, I've been through that. From a personal point of view, when you're a goal scorer and you don't score goals, you're the target always.

But the good thing about that is you can turn that around with a goal, but when we've had seasons where we've not been very successful...

When you're a successful side that's the expectancy. So when you have a bad season, they're very intolerant and here, very fickle.

In saying that, they can be very critical, but when you go away, they still come and support you. So they've always been consistent in coming to support you but they've been very critical.

I wouldn't say I have a love-hate relationship, but some fans would say that, but I've had as much criticism as I've had praise.

It appears that I'm remembered for the good things, so towards the end of my career, where my discipline had probably gone quite a lot and I got sent off a number of times...We played against Kettering in the trophy and we were doing really well that seasons and I got sent off in the trophy.

I'd just scored and we were one nil up, I got too excited, I got sent off, we lost the game two –one. When I look back at the time, it was a very selfish thing and I was just caring about myself there.

Looking back, I can see why fans would be unhappy with that. But you get excited in games and if you start playing for yourself, then that's not always a good thing.

Goal scorers generally have a reputation for playing for themselves. I'm not sure I really did that, but you know, if you watch Defoe for Spurs, every opportunity shooting and shooting and criticised.

As soon as he scores a goal, it's all forgotten and that's the fickle nature of football supporters.

Facilitator: Do you think it's hard to communicate what a player is trying to do? Sometimes they don't understand this aspect or..?

Male: Well, always as a player you always felt that the fans didn't really understand, because they don't know what you've been told to do, they don't know what you've been drilled to do.

If you've been told to play a certain way, you haven't got time to explain that to the fans.

If you're being played at a position, they don't care that you're a centre forward player not left wing, they just want you to be a great left winger or whatever.

So, you can please all the people all the time. Ultimately if you win the game, they're always happy. Whether away or at home, if you lose the game they're always unhappy and that's never going to change for me.

They'll forgive you for playing badly if you win, I think.

Facilitator: Again, when you put on the shirt and it's an iconic shirt for you, with the crest on, obviously you're proud, but what other emotions does that bring up?

Is it daunting, do you have pressure?

Male: Every player is different. Some players are nervous before games, and as you can imagine once you put that shirt on them the nerves can overcome them.

Other players I imagine it calms them down. Personally, to walk in and see the shirt up on the peg, I mean, I was a nervous player anyway, I was always a bit tense and excited.

So from the time I got up, I was already in the game mode, so for me, I was nervous from the time I walked in the dressing room to the time I put the shirt on.

I used to love going out and doing the warm up because that was the time that you got to get in that second wind, to get a sweat on and to get rid of all the nerves.

So, for me, it was right up until I'd finally done that warm up and then you go back into the dressing room for your final briefing, I didn't settle down until then.

But everyone had different habits, and reacted in different ways. Even the level you're playing yourself, you'll see that yourself. They've got different habits. Sometimes they don't even know they're doing it.

Facilitator: Sure and did it ever cross over from the fans, that you were a role model, people looked up to you, they would have your name on the back of their shirt?

Male: You sense that because you're a goal scorer, everyone's relying on you. So, you can make yourself a hero very quickly as a forward, and that's the beauty of it.

You can have a particularly bad day and save it all by a goal. Other players, even if they play well, they can be forgotten quite quickly because the centre forward scored the goal, so we're quite lucky playing up front from that perspective.

Facilitator: I just wondered if you felt that, because a lot of the time it's hard when you see people like Gerrard and everyone else, they say it's a lot of pressure on their shoulders. But sometimes it doesn't transmit that you would be, that there's a lad out there that's going to be thinking "I want to play like that when I play"

Male: Pressure; they all handle it in different way, but I just think the thing is that because we scored so many goals and I was

lucky enough to score a lot of those, I always went out thinking I was going to anyway.

So I wasn't too worried about what happened in the game, because I knew at some point that I'd get a chance to score a goal.

If you're a defender it's a lot different, you're going to be pressured and anxious because the best you're going to do, is not let a goal in.

You're not going to do something fantastic probably, you're just going to play a game and at the end they're going to say "We defended well, didn't we?"

But a forward knows that at some point, he's going to get an opportunity to score and be the hero. So I never felt the pressure from that.

The only time I felt pressured, I think was if I had a debut, or it was a particularly big game. So when I left Stevenage.

Because I was playing well for Stevenage I got an opportunity to go to Barnet. I can remember my first game for Banet because I'd stepped into a level that I was going to find tough, I was very nervous then.

And I had a trial going to Northampton against Peterborough back in the late 80s and I felt really pressured then. But when I played for Stevenage, it was more excitement than pressure really.

Facilitator: Were the goals a relief of pressure, did you feel after you got your first one..?

Male: It was never enough, and that was a problem I had. We've actually had stand up rows and punch ups in dressing rooms, they were so focused on winning.

I think Paul Fairclough fired us up like that. It meant so much to everybody. Me and Paul [Balget 01:06:36] actually had a fight in a dressing room once, who I respect greatly and we're great friends.

We'd beaten someone two nil and I'd scored two and I can remember being disappointed that I hadn't got three, and Paul wasn't very happy because they'd defended well and so he was happy and he was annoyed that I was disappointed.

That's how I was, as a goal scored you can never score enough, you always wanted to get another one. And that's just the state of mind and you have to say "Well actually we've won so that's good enough"

You could never ever win by enough, if we won five nil, I'd always think we should have won by six.

So, I don't know why I was like that, it's just the way I was as a player.

Facilitator: It's a good motivational ploy though to keep everyone...

Male: Yes, we played like that and all the years I played at Stevenage, it was never enough. If you were winning four nil, we were going to try and win five.

There was never a defending tactic, we never said "Right we'll sit back" it just wasn't like that.

Because everybody wanted to get a goal. I think that's the biggest accolade on the park, is to get a goal. That's the best thing you can do, is score a goal.

Facilitator: It's everyone's focus.

END AUDIO

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