

File: BMG David Linford.mp3

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Interviewer: Your name is?

David Linford: David.

Interviewer: David?

David Linford: Linford, as in Christie.

Interviewer: We'll pass that by.

But what was the occasion then?

David Linford: It was a special tribute to him and he came with Port Vale, and he played Stevenage in a sort of tribute match to Stanley Matthews.

Interviewer: And we're talking about Stanley Matthews?

David Linford: Yes, Stanley Matthews.

Interviewer: Extraordinary. What age was he?

David Linford: He was 57.

Interviewer: So what did he look like, at that age, playing football?

David Linford: He looked fit... Thinning hair, obviously, and he was well-greased up.

I think the Stevenage players respected his frailty a bit because they seemed to stand away from him and give him plenty of room to do his little bits of magic.

Interviewer: So he did do his little bits of magic?

David Linford: Oh yes, he certainly did.

Interviewer: What sort of things?

David Linford: Well, dribbling and passing; usual Matthews stuff. It was intriguing to watch.

Interviewer: And did the crowds come?

David Linfoord: Yes, they did indeed. And I think they realised it was a special moment for him, and them.

Interviewer: It's possible that that's the last time he actually played on a football pitch, who knows?

David Linfoord: Might well have done. He might well have done.

Interviewer: So you don't remember the score, by any chance, do you?

David Linfoord: I think Port Vale won one-nil, but that's a mere guess at the moment.

Interviewer: That's a boring score line for a friendly game, isn't it?

David Linfoord: Yes, I think it was, yes.

Interviewer: And how did the crowd treat him?

David Linfoord: I think they treated him with a great deal of respect. There was a tremendous ovation when he got on the pitch and there was a tremendous ovation when he left there.

END AUDIO

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