

File: BMG David Walford.mp3

Duration: 0:07:04

Date: 10/08/2016

Typist: 827

START AUDIO

Interviewer: Okay, my next interviewee here this afternoon is called..?

David Walford: David Walford.

Interviewer: Right David, thank you for agreeing to be interviewed. We're talking about the Tottenham cup games that borough faced earlier in the season. Do you live in Stevenage?

David Walford: We live in South Hertfordshire, down in Welwyn Green.

Interviewer: Right, and do you mind telling us how old you are?

David Walford: I'm 50. I was 50 on the 14th of February this year.

Interviewer: Excellent. Nobody proposed to you?

David Walford: No.

Interviewer: Right. We're talking, as I say, about the Tottenham games this season. Did you expect that we would actually get as far as we've done in the cup this season?

David Walford: Based on what we did last year against Newcastle, and the cup run we've had since then, I was confident, but to draw someone like Tottenham was superb.

Interviewer: Where were you when the draw was actually made?

David Walford: We were at home. Being a Stevenage supporter and ticket holder for about seven years, and my, I suppose, boyhood club is Tottenham, it was a dream draw for the family.

Interviewer: Right. You're not one of these people, then, that doesn't want to draw their other big team?

David Walford: No, definitely not. Definitely not, because it was a superb event, and really enjoyable.

Interviewer: Can I assume that you actually wanted to support Stevenage that day, or Tottenham? Or was it a bit of both?

David Walford: No, it was, as a season ticket holder here, I wanted to support Stevenage, and did support Stevenage.

Interviewer: Excellent.

David Walford: And when we went to White Hart Lane, we did very, very well, and we're very proud of the evening events. So it's great.

Interviewer: Yes. So how did you react when Tottenham's name came out of the hat immediately after ours? Knowing that we were already at home?

David Walford: Again, it was the week of my 50th birthday, and I had my birthday and then that draw came out. It was the pinnacle of the week, it was a brilliant highlight.

Interviewer: Yes. Did you leap around, or did you just sit there gobsmacked?

David Walford: The whole family were literally leaping around, my two boys are here today and they're season ticket holders as well, they were leaping about. It was brilliant.

Interviewer: Excellent. So we had the game down here, you got a ticket all right because you're a season ticket holder, I gather?

David Walford: I was. I was the third in the queue on the Wednesday, coming to get the tickets.

Interviewer: Wow.

David Walford: I was here at 9:00 in the morning.

Interviewer: Who beat you to it, then?

David Walford: One of the guys I normally see on the coach, when we occasionally go away.

Interviewer: Right, you're another one that goes on the supporters' coach, are you?

David Walford: Occasionally I go, yes.

Interviewer: Excellent. So, to the game itself.

David Walford: The game itself, on the home match, very close. Very hard game, and we, again, did very proud, very pleased with the result.

Interviewer: Do you think that with a little bit of a more following wind, we might have won it on the day, down here?

David Walford: Possibly, possibly yes. Yes.

Interviewer: What do you think just shaded the fact that we didn't win it?

David Walford: Probably the last, our finishing, I think. We played very well, Spurs I don't think were on fire that day. I sit behind the away dugout, Harry was quite twitchy through the match.

Interviewer: Was he?

David Walford: He was, yes.

Interviewer: Interesting to hear that. So we got the replay, and, like a lot of people, you got tickets for White Hart Lane.

David Walford: Yes, I did.

Interviewer: How did you get down there, on the supporters' coach?

David Walford: No, I drove down. Drove down.

Interviewer: Oh, of course, if you live closer.

David Walford: Yes. I knew where to park in White Hart Lane, and I took, there were about six of us in the car, five of us in the car that went down.

Interviewer: Right.

David Walford: It was a few people went, so.

Interviewer: I was going to say, "What's your reaction on walking into White Hart Lane," but I guess you might have been there a few times.

David Walford: The reaction was different, because I've never gone into an away supporter's end at White Hart Lane, it's always been a home supporter's.

Interviewer: Yes.

David Walford: Full of Stevenage fans, up for the game, and so it turned out, you know, we got into the game and took the lead. It was, again, in the back of your mind.

Interviewer: Unexpectedly, or did you think we might nick the first goal on that occasion?

David Walford: I think, again, unexpectedly, and then you think in the back of your mind, "Are we really going to do this?" And we nearly did, but not quite, and second half, you know, we had two or three chances. Robbo et cetera, it was very, very close.

Interviewer: Right. We fell perhaps just that little tiny bit short on the day, but is there such a big gulf as you possibly expected between us and the premiership?

David Walford: Definitely not. I go back to where we were in the blue square premier two seasons ago, and where we are now in league one, the gap is definitely closed. Definitely closed, and the team, I think, my opinion is the team played better on a pitch like White Hart Lane, where it's bigger, it's flatter, and the passing on that day was brilliant.

Interviewer: Are you saying that Tottenham don't have a bobbly pitch?

David Walford: Something like that, yes.

Interviewer: So they're able to play better football, but so are we, is the summary, is it?

David Walford: Absolutely, absolutely, yes.

Interviewer: Nothing to do with the fact they've got any good players.

David Walford: Well, there might be a bit of that.

Interviewer: Okay. You've enjoyed the experience?

David Walford: Oh, definitely. Definitely.

Interviewer: If you had the choice of going on into the next round of the FA cup or getting into the playoffs and maybe even promotion to the championship, which would you prefer?

David Walford: Promotion to the championship.

Interviewer: And if we got promoted to the championship, how do you see the next season evolving?

David Walford: Well...

Interviewer: What would your worries, your fears, your positives be?

David Walford: I went to Old Trafford last year, when we came up through the playoffs, and we pulled into a service station on the way back, and there was a supporter there worried about how we'd get on in league one. I personally didn't know how we'd fare in league one. We've done very well. Championship is another

step up. I think, for a personal opinion, the disappointment, if anything, is I thought we'd get more crowd attendance here. Because we need the crowds for the money, to then bring other players in.

Interviewer: Indeed. Are you disappointed that we're not getting bigger crowds than we are, now that we're two leagues up from two years ago?

David Walford: Absolutely, and when the crowds are here, and get behind the team, the atmosphere's brilliant, and I think it does help the team.

Interviewer: Have you got any brilliant ideas how the club can increase the attendances?

David Walford: I don't, unfortunately, but it's just unfortunate.

Interviewer: No. I mean, the chairman's obviously tried different tactics.

David Walford: He has. Enticing people in, enticing the children in, and improving the atmosphere, but it's a great team. They work as a team, they work as one. Graham, you know, unfortunately has gone, but we've got a good new list to move on forward.

END AUDIO

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