

**File: BMD Holly Edwards and Stephen Pattison 2.mp3**

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Holly Edwards: My name is Holly Edwards. I'm 21. I've been watching Stevenage from about 2001.

Stephen Pattison: My name is Stephen Pattison. I'm 22 and I've also been watching Stevenage since I was about 7 or 8 back in the middle of the '90s.

Holly Edwards: My first match, I can't really remember too much about it. All I remember really is I came along with my dad and my brother and we were standing in the small family area in the north end, which soon became our spot. We got to know all the people around us. I can't remember if we won or not. All I remember is seeing some of my school friends and them saying to me, "What are you doing here?" looking at me, I'm a girl, I shouldn't be here but it was something that my dad and my brother were doing coming here. I just wanted to get involved really. I really enjoyed it and kept coming back.

Interviewer: What were the other people like in the stand? You said you got to know the other people in the stand. Who were they?

Holly Edwards: We used to stand in the middle and right at the end on the right there was this group of five men, one of the men had two boys with him. You just would see them, recognise them and then soon it got to the point where my dad would go over and talk to them and me and my brother would hang out with the two boys, didn't even know who each other were before.

Now, even though I don't really come to that many matches anymore because I work, it's quite difficult to come over but when me and my dad do get a chance and come over here, we stand still in our usual spot and see the same men. They still recognise us and still say hello.

Stephen Pattison: My first memory of coming here, I can't remember the team, the game, the score, I remember it being a choice of food shopping with mum or football with dad. Dad won on this occasion. We went and stood in the middle of the East Terrace right at the front. I think the most exciting part of the game for me was the chips at half time and the coke but it got more exciting because I kept on coming back.

I remember being attached to the chant 'Boing Boing Boro Boro' and the crowd cheering that and jumping up and down with their hands up and down their head boinging and bouncing when the goal was scored. For me, that was the excitement for coming again. It wasn't the game. It was that at the age of about seven. The spot that we stood at right at the front on the front row in the middle of the East Terrace became our spot.

I couldn't really see very well so the next game we came along with a small children's stool to stand on against the front barrier. From the choice of shopping or football, from then on each week it was football. I came to follow Stevenage. I don't

really remember, as I say, the games or the goals but I do know it was the year just before the famous cup run.

Interviewer: Why is it 'Boing Boing Boro Boro'?

Stephen Pattison: Yes. I suppose you could say it should be more like bounce bounce Boro Boro. Perhaps it's the ring, that's the chant and that's how it went. I can't claim to be the one that started it but it's certainly something that people still do today.

Interviewer: What are the other chants, other songs?

Holly Edwards: I just remember ones from players. There was one player that we had, Anthony Elding, and took it along the path of being a great Brazilian player and called him Eldinio. They used to just chant 'Eldinio' like that. I remember that because being quite young and hearing that, I actually thought his name was Eldinio. It wasn't until obviously I got to know who the players were that I realised it wasn't his name at all. Yes, they try and give each player a little song but that's one that I really remember because I just didn't realise.

Stephen Pattison: I mean other chants, obviously you've got the standard 'Come On Boro'. One that I remember back at the beginning was their song about hope they're getting promoted which was 'Up the football league we go and when we get promoted this is what we sing; we are Boro, we are Boro, Cloughy is our king'. I still remember that one to that day. [Silly 0:05:28] songs, I think my one was 'He's fat, he's slow but we love him so, Carl Alford'.

Interviewer: You would have been going to the matches about the same time, would you, because you're about the same age?

Holly Edwards: Yes. I didn't see any in the '90s. I started coming in the early 2000s so after the Fairclough era but still you hear about that and it becomes your history. You know everything about that and what happened. Even though I wasn't there watching, I still know quite a bit about it.

Interviewer: How did you get to know about the history of the club then?

Holly Edwards: You come every week and then it moves on to more. You go on the website and check out what's happening and then it is go further and check out the history. The chat forums on there as well, you learn a lot from them as well, just checking up on there and reading about what people are saying. You learn. That's really how I learnt the past and about the Fairclough era and that.

Interviewer: Does the past of the team mean much to you? Is it something you're aware of and think about?

Stephen Pattison: Yes. Obviously you remember where the team has come. I'm too young to remember them winning the league under Fairclough. I was alive but nowhere near knowing what was going on but you got to know that Stevenage was a team that was going places and that was winning. The cup run was what

inspired and got me into coming. Stevenage had got a chance of going somewhere. I think that all football clubs need a story or a tale that goes with them, without that they can't build up. The fans can't become fanatical without history.

Interviewer: Let's do memorable incidents, which can be games but it could also be - I mean you talked about a bag of chips, which I liked, and you've talked about the people you met in that thing. I suppose the thing would be memorable incidents and then I can ask you a little bit - if I said to you Stevenage Football Club, what immediately pops in your head? What do you associate with it? Let's do any memorable incidents that we need to record for posterity.

Holly Edwards: One incident that I really remember, it must have been an FA cup draw that we had and it was with Swansea. My family lives around the Swansea area so that's a must go to game. Just stay with the family and go. There were a few coaches going. We had obviously got there a bit earlier than the coaches. We went to my family's, got the train into Swansea and walked around a bit.

You'd see the coaches driving past and they see the colours on you, didn't know any of the people on there but they were waving to you, cheering along. That was quite nice being in a town so far away from Stevenage but still all those people just recognising your colours and still being really friendly like that, even the banter on the way home. Because obviously we got the train just back to the Welsh town where our family live so we were on a train full of Swansea supporters, even them seeing our colours - I think I must have been about 14 at the time - just having friendly banter with the opposing side.

They could see that we were a family that had come but still gave us a little bit of jip that we lost but it was all in good spirit. That's I think one of my favourite away games because of those two incidences, seeing the coaches and them cheering us because we had the colours on and having that bit of banter with people we'd never met before, Welsh fans.

Stephen Pattison: I think winning always feels better when you've travelled a long distance or you've gone the length of the country to go and watch them. Likewise, travelling such a length and then watching them lose always feels much worse. I remember going to Carlisle away in the freezing cold and coming back with a win and taking the day off school to go. That was frowned upon by the head teacher but at the end of the day, it was, "Do you want to go and watch Stevenage play at Carlisle away or not?"

My parents, luckily enough, gave me the nod to go. I also remember the not so happy, like Fairclough's last game in charge. I think it was my first proper away game at Lincoln away FA cup match and hundreds, maybe 1,000 Stevenage supporters went to that game. It wasn't to be. There was great disappointment and there was lots of expectation on them to do well the year after the big Newcastle game. It was like can Stevenage do the job \_\_\_[0:11:39] again?

Yes, I think sometimes the games that stand out more is the game that you travelled for and the local derby came away. If you can go to one of those then it happens to be the one that sticks in your brain.

Holly Edwards: Yes. I think some of the away matches at Barnet stick in my head the most because they're obviously Stevenage's rival.

Being so close, a lot of travelling fans went and there was a lot of hate between them because of the history but it was such a great atmosphere going there. I always remember I must have gone to quite a few Barnet games until obviously they got promoted, which probably didn't go down too well here because their ground - I don't know what it's like now - but it was absolutely awful.

The fact that we got denied promotion over our ground, they got given - well it must have changed because they got given something like a season or two seasons to change. They were given the opportunity whereas we weren't. It was called Underground or something like that but it was such a slant. People used to call it..?

Stephen Pattison: Underhill I think it was called.

Holly Edwards: Oh Underhill, yes. They used to call it up the hill because it was like that. There used to be tactics of obviously trying to play downhill in the second half and stuff like that.

Stephen Pattison: Yes. I mean Barnet away, when those games finally came, I remember it always being Boxing Day. We'd play Barnet on Boxing Day and New Years Day. It either made Christmas or it made it a sad Christmas if you like because your mood changes on what it's like. I remember going to Barnet and feeling extremely intimidated. It was my first look in at football and being dangerous if you like with a mass police segregation outside the ground, police forming a wall to separate the fans. It was quite, I suppose it might sound silly, but quite scary.

On those games, the ones where there is that sort of presence, that fence, that dividing line, because the team is just round the corner, whether it's the M25 or up the A1, there's always an extra buzz in the crowd. There's the desperation of, "I live in the better part of this part of the land than you."

Holly Edward: You claim to be London when you're really Hertfordshire.

Stephen Pattison: Yes. I think one of the more funny chants that I've heard since, going to other games, I remember St Alban City away and St Alban's fans crying that they pay Stevenage residents benefits, in obviously more a fan way of chanting. It was basically to create a rivalry for the fun of it. Whether they do or not, that's up for debate. It always gave the Stevenage fans an extra smile, the fact that they could walk out of St Alban's ground knowing that they'd won several goals to nil. I think the local games are the ones that make the fans gear up for it in a different way.

Interviewer: Have you been going to football long enough to have noticed any changes in that - I suppose it's a bit hard to tell - since you started because you were with your family and then when you first went? I just wondered whether you thought the culture of supporting had changed even in your experience of coming.

Stephen Pattison: Do you mean like when I was talking about the police and stuff?

Interviewer: Yes, things like that or relations with the fans out in the stands.

Holly Edwards: I think there are definitely more young kids now. The last game that I came to was in April. I definitely noticed there were a lot more kids with their families, younger kids, as young as probably about five. I think that can only be a good thing because it's showing that football is more accessible now to younger people and they are the fans of the future. If you can get them in younger, they're going to have Stevenage in their blood and hopefully be their first team and not their second team.

Most of the people out there I'm sure do have that other team and Stevenage are - even though they do come and support every week - probably are not on the same level as a premiership club they may support. I think it's a good thing that there's younger children coming because hopefully it will just improve the fan base in years to come.

Interviewer: What does it mean to have Stevenage in your blood because you just used that nice expression?

Holly Edwards: It's weird because before I started coming with my dad and my brother, I didn't really know much about any football. I didn't support a premiership team or anything like that. Coming here, I was a fresh mind willing to just see what happens, take away from it what I can. I think I was one of those children where I got the buzz and just caught the vibe of the club. It's just stayed with me ever since.

Even though I don't really get to come to many matches now, I'm still on my iPhone checking the Sky Sports app to see how

we've done. I think that sign that even if you can't make it every week, it's still inside and you're still fond of the club.

Stephen Pattison: I don't think that the culture on the terrace has changed. I still think that people come, they want to win. I feel that as Stevenage have moved on to a new level now, I think that Stevenage are yet to find the club that is their rival at this level, the scene of seeing football and, if you like, Stevenage on the edge of a violent scene at the away games when I described the police line. I wouldn't say that Stevenage can really look back at itself and think that it's ever been not a family friendly club.

I think Stevenage is a young football club. I think that is shown through the attendance figures. I think that it's got a strong future as long as it can inspire a new generation of fans if you like. As a young team and as a smaller club it's harder to make that be Stevenage your number one team. New status in the league, there's no reason why people in Stevenage, born in Stevenage or who live in the neighbouring town shouldn't be looking at Stevenage Football Club and going, "I'm going to support Stevenage," not going, "I should support a team in the premier league," because Stevenage are one of the big ones.

They're perhaps a small fish in a big pool but before that they were just in a pond. They've moved on. You don't prepare for a match, to come to a match but you still come to the match in the same mindset. If you're playing another big team if you like, there's still the edge and there's still the excitement to hold on to and it's still a great feeling if it goes your way.

Interviewer: Are you both from Stevenage? Were you brought up - you are? What about you, Holly?

Holly Edwards: I'm from Hatfield so neighbouring town.

Interviewer: I just wondered whether in terms of living in Stevenage, does being a supporter of Stevenage give you a particular sense of what that means do you think?

Stephen Pattison: I think that Stevenage and its football team, the football team gives the people who live in Stevenage something to be proud of. In the past, Stevenage has been frowned upon as somewhere to live and the football club, if you like, has helped the town grow and is like a bright torch that is opening the world up to Stevenage Borough Football Club and the modern club. When you move away, you're always looking at the scores. To see the team high in the league, it allows you speak positively about your town and where you live.

It's quite nice to be able to brag that they beat one of the Sheffield clubs 5-1 the other week. Without the football team, Stevenage is modern in its social history as well. The football team is making Stevenage grow.

Interviewer: Does it give you any sense of belonging to a particular place, to belong to a football team?

Holly Edwards: Because I'm not from Stevenage, I can't really say that I feel that but I feel more connected on a county level because - I don't know. I think there were other options of places that me, my dad and my brother could have decided to go to but we chose to - well it was actually my dad and my brother that

came along first. I don't know why they decided to come here but they did. Hatfield isn't really that far away. I'd always look forward to driving up the A1 and coming off and pretty much being at the football ground.

Back in those days, when I first started, you could park in the Roaring Meg Toys R Us car park. We used to walk under the subway and up. There used to be a divide, the away fans that way and the home fans that way. The away fans, their coaches always used to park over in Fairlands bit so they used to come over. You used to walk past each other. That used to be quite an experience, walking past the opposing fans.

Mostly it would have been a fun, friendly - what's the word - not enemy but it was all fun. Yes, I think I'm glad that it was Stevenage that they decided to come and watch because I couldn't really imagine following a local club like I have Stevenage.

Interviewer: Who do you come to football with now? Do you still come with your dad and your brother?

Holly Edwards: My brother doesn't come with us anymore. He lives away. When I do get to come, I come along with my dad, just me and my dad and I quite enjoy that. The last time I came I actually brought my boyfriend with me. The match was the day of his birthday. I can't remember, Bradford it was against. I can't remember if we won or not. I think we won 2-0 but I said to him, "I really fancy going to a football match," and I think he was thinking we'd go and watch Spurs or something. I was like, "Do you want to go and watch Stevenage?"

He came along and he actually quite enjoyed it and he'd never come to watch Stevenage before. I'm sure he wouldn't mind coming again. It was nice sharing the experience with other people. When I was younger and used to go on the away games with my dad and my brother, my brother started bringing his friends along. Because my brother was bringing his friends along, I started trying to bring some of my friends along.

I brought a couple of my girl mates here. Obviously they didn't like it as much as I did because they didn't come again but still, it was the trying that counted, trying to get more people to come along.

Interviewer: What did you say to them to get them to come?

Holly Edwards: My brother's friends are coming, my brother's older friends, that kind of thing. I think I was a bit different in that way, in that I was open to the game whereas other girls at that time, there was only a few of us coming to watch but now there's definitely a lot more women in the crowd. Yes, I think I was more open to the game than other girls my age would have been.

Interviewer: Do you want to tell us about your jobs here? How did you get from being a supporter to having some jobs here?

Stephen Pattison: That's a very good question. From being the fan, standing in the terrace, my mum got involved with the supporters club to promote more children to come into football games. They formed some sort of attendance management committee

which, in short, gave free tickets out to school children. It was her involvement that gave me a path to get involved. I remember at first helping be a ball boy. They didn't have ball boys but what they did have were a couple of people that would run out on the ground if the ball went over the stands.

I'd help every couple of minutes when the away team had fired it over the bar and high, run off down out of the stadium and down the under path to go and rescue the ball from teenage kids waiting outside if you like, to run away with Stevenage's football. From that, the old score board was put in place and my love for shouting down a microphone and technology and computers got me involved with basically running the computer system and the score board system here, probably when I was about 15, not on my own but supervised with somebody else.

As whizz kids and young kids, I personally think that I was always better than the man in charge, you know how it goes. That was my path moving to getting involved, all on a voluntary basis and still on a voluntary basis.

Interviewer: What do you do now at the club on a voluntary basis?

Stephen Pattison: Well I still am helping do the electronic advertising display. People often think, "What can you do? What's involved in doing that?" If you do it to how the club want it done then you don't actually watch a kick of the ball because you're continuously looking at a computer screen, looking at the scores on the computer to your right, typing, "Come on Boro," changing the speed of the display, flying adverts in for every time it goes off for a throw.

I'd say that the job ought to be paid because you're not watching the game anymore, you're looking at the screen. There are fun bits out of doing the job. The famous phrase that came up on the old board was, "We need your noise. Come on Boro, come on Boro." People laugh at that when they see that. That was something that always used to get a jeer or a cheer or a frown for, "That's the hundredth time we've seen that \_\_\_[0:30:37]. We're not going to give you our noise today."

It's quite fun to know that a couple of words can change the roar in the stadium, even the famous goal flashes that the board did in the middle of the game. You always used to look out for if Woking were one down, then that would be a way of inspiring the crowd on. Flashing up that Woking were losing 1-0 home to whoever, would get a cheer.

I still think today that if I was to be, if you like, sad enough to look at where Woking are and goal flash the fact that they were 1-0 down at home, it would probably get a laugh of more what it meant back in those days. It's fun. It's a shame that not more people want to get involved and do things voluntary.

Interviewer: Are you aware of the ads and all these things going on on the score board when you're watching the games?

Holly Edwards: Yes. You watch out for other scores that are going on when your match is on. I remember watching for Woking scores. Also, I remember watching for the score to get promotion into the league. Who was it we were waiting to find out?

Stephen Pattison: I have no idea.

Holly Edwards: We were five games from the season but if we would have won this then a certain team would have lost. I can't remember who it was now but everyone was waiting for that score. When it finally came up-

Stephen Pattison: A small FT next to the thing.

Holly Edwards: Yes.

Stephen Pattison: The score board was basically the cause of a pitch invasion.

Interviewer: What is it about Woking?

Holly Edwards: I can't remember. I don't really know how that rivalry started. I just came, there's rivalry there, that's all you need to know and you just carry it on. I can't really remember what it was. All I remember is they were quite dirty players. You just didn't like Woking at all. Even as a girl you didn't like Woking. You just gave them what you could give whenever they came anywhere near you with the ball.

Stephen Pattison: I mean I think the thing about Woking was more probably Stevenage jealousy for previous defeats in cup games. Whatever it was, it gave it something special. I remember Stevenage winning 5-0 or 5-1 one evening here in the freezing cold and it was a big score and a big game. I

remember on that night you could have pushed a button and the crowd would have gone absolutely mad and they did. The cheery sort of songs that there crowd chant and cheer, extra pleasure and feeling.

Yes, there was a real hate in those games. It's funny because now I don't really feel any hate towards Woking at all. In fact, in some ways I wish that Woking were one division below us or perhaps in the same league because you miss those games and those days.

Interviewer: What's the character now, now that you're in the new league?

Stephen Pattison: Promotion to the football league and league one is the dream that wasn't dreamt going up to league one. You're on cloud nine if you like. We haven't been there long enough to have the rival, to have the team that is the one that you want to bear, the one you're looking out for. Charlton, is that now the Derby game, Stevenage in London? Probably not, you're still wanting your Barnet or your Luton. It's quite nice to say that Stevenage are bigger than them. It's not our fault that we can't play them.

Holly Edwards: It's quite weird to think that we're now better than Luton because when I started watching, Luton had their manager - what was his name - \_\_\_[0:35:24] or something like that. The whole of three counties, Stevenage just got a snippet of they won or they lost, whereas it was totally pretty much dominated by Luton and MK Dons and now look, the tables have turned really.

Interviewer: Do you remember when the promotion happened? Do you remember where you were? Was it one of those events where you remember what you are and what you were doing when that happened?

Holly Edwards: No really. I just remember waiting for the score to come up. I can't really remember how I felt. It was happy obviously but it was a bit of a - things are going to change now because I think once you get into the football league, the conference, well blue square, whatever you want to call it, had an air about it that the football league just doesn't really have.

Interviewer: Can you say what sort of air?

Holly Edwards: Just sort of...

Stephen Pattison: I think that it was the semi professional style to it that the more old fashioned amateur stadium that you would go into. I think there's something to be said about travelling to Canvey Island on a cold night, rather than going to the more glamorous Bournemouth away. I just think it was about the silly little tea bar in the corner of a football stadium, the terrace that's got weeds and plants growing up the side of it, the tree in the middle of the stand, the flats on top of roofs.

Maybe it's because it's associated with the old football game that was more played at a professional level when we had the bigger teams in the more old fashioned looking stadium. Perhaps it just makes it feel more local and it gives it more of

a community feeling rather than a professional feeling to the game.

Holly Edwards: Yes. I think what I was saying before about the internet forums where people would chat and that, other teams they'd comment and stuff. There would be prominent characters that you knew from the other teams. I don't really think you can have that at a higher level really because the fan base grows. I think that's something that might be missed, the community feeling of the conference, it was just a fun thing. You had the, not the rivalry, the banter whereas I think when it gets to the football league, obviously it's professional now, so much more serious.

I don't really think it's a bad thing. They've worked very hard and definitely deserve to have finally made it to the football league after being denied it before. I wasn't watching Stevenage then when they first won the conference and got denied but obviously you know about it from learning the history. I think they definitely deserved it but I think it was about 15 years later, something like that. It definitely took time but then you had 15 years of enjoying the conference so it wasn't necessarily a bad thing waiting all that time.

Stephen Pattison: I mean winning the league, I don't know whether - winning the league, we knew we'd won it when we lifted the trophy here but I wasn't lucky enough to go to the game where they actually won the league and it was mathematically impossible for anything else to happen. I remember coming to the game here when they were going to lift the shield/trophy and having the procession on the pitch afterwards, a near capacity crowd in the stadium. It was a special day.

It's not often that you see old people and people that have been connected with the club for a long time happy but also there's a spark of a tear in the eye, not my dream, obviously I wanted it to happen, but their football club, the one that they made, had finally made it to the big time. I remember flashing up champions on the screen. Unfortunately it read champion because it was broken at one end. It was a special moment.

What I'm going to say here is that I think in some ways I might have preferred to have won promotion to the football league in the play offs because when we promotion to league one, it was the trip to Old Trafford, the big match if you like. When you win those games - it's horrible if you lose, Stevenage have lost them - but when you win, here when we'd won the league, we had won the league, it happened over a whole season but there it was one match, it was one goal.

I remember being in the crowd and erupting out of the seat. That was exciting. I think that supports football for me. I mean the football manager definitely wants to win the league and win every game but for the fan, I think the cup style competition, that's what grips a fan and keeps it exciting.

Interviewer: Just thinking about some future changes because earlier on you pointed out the stand where you were with your father and your brother and somebody said it was going to be redeveloped. You were talking about the change to a more professional status and the more amateurish weeds growing in the concrete and things like that. I mean how do you feel about changes to the ground which come with this new..?

Holly Edwards: Obviously, if it does happen, I would be a little bit upset about it because that is my stand, that little family stand, the one

with no cover over it, which is about four steps tall. I'd be very sad to see that go. When it did rain and it was too heavy to stand in, we did move into the covered stand next to it, which was also another nice stand to go in. Unless you're proper in with the singing, nowhere is intimidating in the ground.

I do think now that they're in the league it does need to happen because that stand is the one that people drive past the most. To see that, it's not very impressive at all. I think if that's rebuilt and it's made to look like the other stands are then I think that might attract more supporters to the club to think, "They're no longer a non-league side, they're in league one. Let's start going."

I think it would be definitely sad if it does go because of the memories that I hold from standing there and standing in our spot and the friends that we made but it probably is a change that needs to happen with the progress that the club has made.

Stephen Pattison: I think that the stadium developing and becoming more of a professional outfit is the way forward and the football club have to be forward facing. I obviously have attachments to standing over on the East Terrace. I remember the experiences of jumping up and down and running forward but an all seated stadium, a new stand behind the goal, I think that's exciting for the football club as well.

I think that now when I come here and now we're playing the bigger league, Stevenage's stadium has gone from, not quite the Manchester United of the conference but it wasn't far off it. Stevenage's ground was one of the best for that level and now Stevenage's ground is one of the worst at its level. In a way, it's a bit embarrassing when you bring a friend, they

actually find it quite amusing and fun that it's a small little ground. When you're comparing it to the teams you're playing against, you look at it and think Stevenage needs to grow up. Changing the stadium, sorting out the cracks and filling in the gaps is the way forward. The sooner it's done, the better.

My worry though is that the fan base is a problem. The stadium can hold about 7,500 people and we talk about building a new ground, not building a ground but making the ground bigger. If you can't fill the capacity at the moment then what's the point?

Interviewer: What do you think is likely to bring, especially younger fans in? I mean it's interesting today that most of the people who have come have been older. I mean you're exceptions in some ways.

Stephen Pattison: The easy thing to say is a winning team. They have been quite successful.

Holly Edwards: I think it is just a generation thing and just getting the young kids involved now that it will drum into their head as Stevenage being the number one team, whereas a lot of the fans now, Stevenage are their second team. I think that's what's lacking. If people see their home team as a successful league team, which they are, to come and start supporting them then the crowds would definitely feel what they're planning to build.

They get kids involved quite a lot here and I think it's just a case of persevering and carry on with what they're doing and it will eventually happen.

Stephen Pattison: I mean I think the community work is the most important thing. It's getting into the schools, getting into the primary schools. At five a child starts playing football. It's at five that that child's football team needs to be Stevenage. If Stevenage can be the first club in the school that does the silly children's fun session after school then that could be the beginning of that person going, "We had a Stevenage player come here today." That doesn't mean that that little boy is going to come to the next Stevenage match. It might.

It might mean that his dad goes, "I'll take him along to the Stevenage game to see Stevenage in the right place." The football club has got a role to play in promoting children to come. I know they do it's free for children on certain games but they can't look at the crowd and go, "Well we had free children that game. We've had free children the last 10 games and that hasn't really had an impact," because it won't have an immediate impact. It's a thing that needs to happen over time. Hopefully people will keep on coming back and supporting Stevenage.

Interviewer: Any other vivid memories that we haven't covered or things that you would like to? Some of the people I've interviewed have started to talk to the future and they've said, "If you're listening to this in 200 years time, this is what I want to say to you." Is there anything we haven't talked about and potentially anything you might like to say to the future?

Stephen Pattison: I think I could talk about being mascot. I've been mascot a couple of times. I couldn't name you the games but the memory is firmly still in the head every time I go in the men's

loos here. It may be a bit inappropriate but they've got various pictures and things and one of them is me being the mascot and leading the team out, standing in the middle of the pitch. On that day, as it happens, I wasn't wearing a Stevenage shirt. That was me wearing a Tottenham shirt because it was a friendly against Spurs but you have more than one team sometimes.

I also remember leading Stevenage out against Woking and that was fun but that was when I was much younger. I have memories also of my brother also doing it years on. I can remember his game better than when I did it. There was such excitement for when he did that and running on and kicking the ball with the captain and having the picture and meeting all the players afterwards.

At that age it was exciting to meet the players. That was, "Wow, I've just met the Stevenage team." They're strong, colourful, emotions, walking out of the crowd and hearing the roar, walking out with the club mascot, the bear, it's special. You don't forget those silly things.

Interviewer: What did it feel like walking out on to the pitch?

Stephen Pattison: I think I was scared but you're excited at the same time. It's hard to remember because you're so young but I remember feeling like I was going to have to run on like it was a march. I remember standing on the pitch all very proud with my arms folded and everything, everyone was watching me. They probably weren't but that's what it felt like. You got to shake the referees hand and you got to watch the coin get flipped.

I remember getting to keep the pound coin, that was always special, and then running off and the manager at the time bent down and gave me a high five. I think any child that does that, that's like a fun memory.

Interviewer: Is that because your mum was working for the supporters club at that point, that you became the mascot?

Stephen Pattison: No. I can't remember whether she was or she wasn't. Anyone can be a mascot, it's like a package here. It was a game that your grandparents all came along and you got a signed ball, a picture and you got the kit, you got the shorts. It was fun. I remember the Tottenham game, I think my mum was involved here at the time for that but that was different then because I think I probably felt like I wanted Tottenham to win. I must have done, I was wearing the Spurs shirt but I couldn't say that I really had mixed emotions over how the game was going to go as a friendly.

Interviewer: Have you ever been a mascot?

Holly Edwards: No. I wish I had been though. I remember standing in the stands and seeing the mascot. Even the ball boys, I felt a little pang of jealousy that they had a little role to play. Obviously I did have a role to play as a fan, to cheer on the team but that's something that I would have loved to have done but never did.

Interviewer: Do girls do that?

Holly Edwards: Girls can be ball boys now, boy girls, yes. There have been mascots. Just the opportunity that I missed out on, I would have liked to have had that as a memory. I'm sure it would have been a great memory to have.

Interviewer: Any other memories?

Holly Edwards: It's just the usual routine really that I remember. For example, a Tuesday night match, home game, being at school all day, coming home for your dinner, then heading off to come here, driving along the A1 and parking up and being wrapped up. The girls at school must have thought I was made choosing to stand outside on a Tuesday night in mid November/December in the freezing cold but I just enjoyed it. Starting the game off with a Diet Coke and then at half time my dad would send me off and get a hot chocolate and a chocolate bar each. That used to happen at every Tuesday night game.

Then on Saturday, you'd wake up, have your lunch and come over here and spend the afternoon over here, maybe treat yourself to a burger or something like that. Even though I obviously do like Saturday matches, I did quite like the mid week ones. I don't know what it was about them. I really did enjoy just standing outside in the dark with the flood lights on the pitch. I think some of the great pitches in the programmes were the ones at night because of the way the photography was captured and that.

I don't know. I really did enjoy coming on a Tuesday night. I used to look forward to it during school thinking, "Get home, I'll be going to watch Stevenage later."

Interviewer: What did you say on Wednesday morning at school?

Holly Edwards: Well if they won, obviously I was great. I was really happy. If they lost I used to get jip from some of the boys; "You just support Stevenage, they lost." They were the typical premiership supporters. I used to get a bit of jip from them which didn't used to go down too well. Obviously it was much more preferable to win but whether we won or lost, it was just the atmosphere and the enjoyment of coming and also spending time with my dad and my brother because obviously football really is more of a male dominated sport, a male pastime.

To be able to get involved in that and have that quality time with my dad and my brother has definitely brought us closer. I'm a lot closer to my dad than a lot of my other friends are to their dad and I reckon it is because we've had that bond of coming here to watch football together.

Interviewer: Yes. I'd go with that. Lots of people talk about football being a barrier to family and stopping families from going out and doing things at the weekend because they're going to the football. Football was a family thing. It was something I did with my dad. It's something that you still do with your dad and your brother. In fact, it's probably one of the only times that for three or four hours on a Saturday, we'd be there together. That time is in the calendar and firm.

There's no change. That's something that supporting a team and following a team gives you. It makes a bond and a relationship and gives you friends and makes home more fun.

Interviewer: Anything else you'd like to say?

Holly Edwards: Just that I hope Stevenage just carry on with the way that they're going. Clearly something is working and going right with the club. They stick to their roots, you remember where you come from not that long ago and it's very easy to go back there. I think that can only be a good thing if you keep that in your memory, it keeps the team, the club and the players and everyone grounded. It can't get the way other teams are. With certain football clubs, it's all about just one player whereas I think with Stevenage it's about the whole team. I'd like that to continue.

Interviewer: Do you think you'll always support Stevenage?

Holly Edwards: Yes. No matter wherever my life takes me after university, if I move away or whatever, I'll definitely always keep an eye on where Stevenage are, what they're doing. It's so easy to catch up on how football clubs are doing now with obviously the internet and the apps you can get on your phone. It's so accessible to just quickly - Stevenage are winning, that's great. I'll definitely always follow Stevenage, I can't imagine not following them.

Stephen Pattison: My favourite thing about Stevenage Borough is that they've never been relegated. If they can say that in 20 years time then that will be one amazing achievement. I'm always going to follow Stevenage and always going to look out for the result and hopefully - life is a long time but hopefully I'll still be coming here for many years to come. You're always looking out for the score. It's not difficult, it's easy. It's online. It's on your phone.

It's on your Facebook stream. You can always tell when Stevenage are winning, it's trending on Twitter. You're always going to look out for your home town and how they're going.

Holly Edwards: That's just one more thing I remember that I'd like to say. I feel very upset that they're no longer Stevenage Borough and just Stevenage Football Club. I like the chants that come with Borough. I feel that's lost now. We aren't Stevenage Borough anymore but to me we are still Stevenage Borough. Also the changing of the name of the stadium, it's always going to Broadhall Way for me, not The Lamex Stadium, I'm afraid.

Interviewer: Do you think maybe the name Borough will stick whatever the official name is?

Holly Edwards: Yes.

Interviewer: The Borough is enough is it?

Holly Edwards: Yes. I think it's strange that that's the one to stick when you consider it went from town and then to athletic. For Borough to be the one that everyone remembers and to take that away and people now still want to sing those songs, I think it will always be the Borough to 99% of the fans here.

END AUDIO

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