

File: BMD Jonny Moore and Pat Jackson 2.mp3

Duration: 0:51:04

Date: 09/08/2016

Typist: 708

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Interviewer: What's your name?

Jonny Moore: Jonny Moore.

Interviewer: Could you spell that for me?

Jonny Moore: 'J-O-N-N-Y M-O-O-R-E'.

Interviewer: You are?

Pat Jackson: Pat Jackson.

'P-A-T J-A-C-K-S-O-N'.

Interviewer: In what capacity are you here today?

Jonny Moore: As a fan.

Pat Jackson: Yes, the same.

Interviewer: I think I'm going to have to hold that.

Okay.

How long have you both been fans of Stevenage?

Jonny Moore: I have for about five years.

Pat Jackson: Yes, I'd say four seasons, for me.

Jonny Moore: Yes, I'd say about the same, actually.

Interviewer: Are you friends?

Jonny Moore: No, actually.

Pat Jackson: We've just met today.

Jonny Moore: We've just met today.

Interviewer: Oh, really?

Jonny Moore: We've come in for chats on the main stand.

It's been quite lively. (Laughter)

Interviewer: What brought you to Stevenage, as a fan?

Jonny Moore: I just wanted to check out my local team a few years ago.

I'd been to a couple of games when I was a kid, but the main one that I remember is a pre-season friendly against Tottenham.

I thought I'd come along, and I remember thinking that Spurs weren't very good.

Well, not miles apart from Stevenage.

I started going to games from then.

Interviewer: Pat?

Pat Jackson: A similar story, I guess.

I came down here for work six years ago. I was from Sheffield, originally, and a Wednesday fan, growing up.

I am still, I suppose. It's 50:50, these days, although after the 5-1, it's more like 60:40, Stevenage, I guess.

Yes, the first game I went along to was a Tottenham pre-season friendly. They lost 3-1, but against a full-strength Tottenham side who played really well.

I was expecting to see a no-frills Conference side hoofing it and clubbing the Tottenham Youth team, and what we got was

a much more even game with two almost full-strength first teams.

The commitment and the passion of the Stevenage fans and players got me coming along as a fan fairly quickly.

Interviewer: Did you go to games when you lived in Sheffield?

Pat Jackson: Yes, I was a season-ticket holder at Hillsborough before I came down here for work.

I came along here as a neutral just because I was a bit football-starved over the off-season. I came down for some pre-season friendlies, but slowly started coming a long more and more often.

Then, I'd call myself a fan.

The start of the Conference-winning season was when I first bought a shirt and came along to the first game feeling like I was a fan and not just a neutral coming along.

Going to the odd game for two or three seasons, getting to know the players a bit and seeing the efforts they put in made all the difference.

Interviewer: For you, similar?

You're nodding your head?

Jonny Moore: Yes, I'm just agreeing, really.

I started coming along regularly the season that we got into the Conference play-off finals, when we eventually lost to Cambridge.

I went to a few games home and away, and then obviously the FA Trophy the year before as well.

I've been coming regularly for a few years now, and, yes, having a great time.

Pat Jackson: You're a proper Stevenage boy, born and bred, aren't you?

Jonny Moore: I am.

Pat Jackson: You're not being accused of being a glory fan?

Jonny Moore: No.

Pat Jackson: Since Stevenage beat Wednesday this season, I am not a glory hunter.

Interviewer: Does that happen?

Pat Jackson: Not yet, but maybe.

Jonny Moore: No, it's good.

I've been away to university for the last three years and have just graduated. When I explained to people there who Stevenage were, it was a bit interesting.

I lived with a Man U fan, someone who supported Liverpool and an Arsenal fan, and trying to explain to them why, at the time, Non-League football was just a good thing to go and watch was a bit difficult.

I lived with this guy and we went out on a night out once. I taught him the, "Moro is a goal machine," chant.

I texted him the other day because he's now playing for Norwich in the Premiership.

I said, "Look, we are good. Our players can go far."

Interviewer: You grew up in Stevenage?

Jonny Moore: Yes.

Interviewer: Did you not come as a child?

Jonny Moore: Not really, but I wasn't really interested in football until I was about 15, actually. I'm in my 20s now.

I went to the odd game with friends. I wasn't really interested. It was when I was about 16 that I started coming along.

I've never looked back.

I like how positive the club is and how we're moving in the right direction, going up the leagues. That's something that other fans don't really have.

If you've been a fan of a Premiership team all your life and then maybe one season you don't do so well, it's just a disappointment, isn't it?

Whereas, we started from the bottom, building our way up. We've got everything to look forward to, really.

Pat Jackson: I think the big difference for me, going back to Hillsborough and seeing a team that slid down a long way, is the expectation and the appreciation of the players.

I've been at games at Hillsborough where they've booed at 0-0 at half-time, and someone has stood up to go on at 60 minutes, the guy behind me has stood up and gone, "Don't bring him on. He's rubbish."

You'd never get that down here.

In one of the Conference seasons, we lost a game 3-1 on a rainy, dark night and we still applauded the players off the pitch, just at the efforts they put in.

That difference in the attitude in the stands makes a massive difference to how much you enjoy the game as a fan.

Interviewer: Why do you think that the supporters are like that and are different to the..?

Jonny Moore: I think it's because we've seen the bottom in terms of the Conference, and in just some of the away days that we used to go on.

I went to Grays Athletic away on a Tuesday, and it was rubbish, unless you were Grays Athletic. (Laughter)

Seeing the difference between that level of football and the progress we've made, you can't take anything for granted.

The team has worked so hard and the club has improved loads. You just have to remain positive and think, "Look where we've come from to where we are now."

Pat Jackson: I think it stems a lot from the togetherness of the players.

There are no single individuals that think they're above the team, and I don't think Graham Westley would put up with that.

He brings in people who are going to work as a team and as a unit, and when you see that on the pitch, you're like, "Well, as fans, we're working as part of the unit to help support that."

They continually enforce that message in the programme. We always read Mark Roberts saying, "Thank you. Your support is really needed."

They've started sending out emails from the players.

Jonny Moore: I like that.

Interviewer: Have they?

Jonny Moore: Yes.

Pat Jackson: Yes, it's really good.

You're just on a mailing list and everyone gets it, but it does feel like it is to you.

Interviewer: What's that?

How does it work?

Jonny Moore: Instead of the club sending out generic emails, saying, "Come along to Stevenage FC," they're getting the actual players to write them.

Interviewer: Oh, really?

Jonny Moore: Yes, trying to get the fans going a bit.

I really like it. It's good.

If you've got Chris Beardsley telling you to come along to a game, you think, "Oh, alright, I will. Cheers, Beardo."

Pat Jackson: Yes, "We'd appreciate your support if you come along"?

Jonny Moore: Yes.

Pat Jackson: You're more likely to make the effort.
It's things like the interaction between the players.
We're both East Terrace, most of the time, aren't we?

Jonny Moore: Yes.

Pat Jackson: The difference between the interaction there and the interaction 20 rows back at Hillsborough is massive as well. You get a little bit of banter with the opposing left back and that sort of thing.

Jonny Moore: In Stevenage, you see the players around town as well. It will sound stupid, but they're like real people.
Do you know what I mean?

Interviewer: Yes, I know what you mean. (Laughter)

Jonny Moore: They're just blokes, they play well, and they love the team. I imagine it's something that you don't get at other teams, where they're just a bit anonymous and faceless.
It gives the whole Club a personality, I think, which you don't get elsewhere.

Pat Jackson: I do meet them fairly regularly. I play on a Thursday night down at Shephalbury. We play in a 6:00pm or 7:00pm slot, so

we get there for changing at 5:30pm and they're just warming down and finishing off.

I've often come across Craig Reid standing in a wheelie bin full of ice. (Laughter)

A couple of months ago, I met the Chairman standing outside our pitch just talking to someone else, and I nodded at him as a, "Hello," because I recognised him from the Q&A session we went to.

I hadn't really pictured who he was, at the back of me. I was just saying, "Hello," just like, "I recognise you because you were sitting in the front row."

I went on there, and then about five minutes later, it twigged.

"That was the Chairman of the Club."

Interviewer: What was the Q&A thing that you were talking about?

Jonny Moore: They did a fans' forum at the start of the season, where Graham Westley and Phil Wallace answered fans' questions down at the Broadhall Suite.

It was really good, actually, because, again, you don't get that sort of interaction with other clubs. They try to distance themselves.

You can ask them whatever sorts of questions you want.

Someone had a go about team tactics, actually, didn't they?

Pat Jackson: Yes, it was totally uncensored, so there were things like someone saying, "Craig Reid hasn't shown anything. He's the

most expensive player the club has ever bought, so what was the point of that?"

Graham Westley said, "Well, he's coming a long way. He's getting up to the work rate."

To hear that sort of defence and the belief he has in his players, you can see how things move forward, and we've seen that this season. He's started looking a lot more dangerous.

Jonny Moore: Yes.

Obviously, there are a lot of projects planned. They're going to build a new North Stand, and they've just bought a load of land to make training pitches down in Bragbury as well.

Interviewer: Have they?

Jonny Moore: Yes, it's going to be massive.

Pat Jackson: About 40 acres or something like that.

Jonny Moore: Something like that, yes.

It was just interesting, hearing their plans for that. They're not really keeping anything from the fans.

Well, it doesn't feel like they are anyway. They're quite happy just to talk to you about it and what their plans are, which is nice, I think.

Pat Jackson: Yes.

We knew about the new screen from that session, didn't we?

Jonny Moore: Yes.

Pat Jackson: That's coming in the first half of the year, £30,000 on the new screen, and then we'll do the North Stand.

You talked about the differences and plans if we get promoted this season, which is obviously a longshot, but if it happens, there are different plans.

If we stay in the same league, we'll do something. If we go back down, we'll do something smaller.

They're a club not in debt and they're a club spending within their means, and that sort of thing is what I want as a fan for my club, going forward.

It's building for the future. It's not taking financial risks with the Club's future, just for short-term gain.

Interviewer: Do you think there would be a difference if they went up and continued to go up, or do you think it would stay the same, this fan-club relationship?

Jonny Moore: Yes, I would like to think it would stay the same.

Pat Jackson: I think we'd keep that core, certainly.

We do need a higher average gate to compete at this level consistently in the future. That's the major push, I think, from what Phil was saying.

We've got an average attendance of maybe 3,000, and that's not even in the top half of League Two.

It's pushing that up and getting more people from the Stevenage area, which is a big population area, to come to Stevenage as a first choice and have a Premier League team in their back pocket that they support alongside it.

Getting that change of affiliation really would make a difference to the Club's future.

Jonny Moore: Definitely.

I think, as well, in retaining the atmosphere around the Club, we've been promoted twice in recent years, but it does feel the same in the sense that, when we were in Non-League, we were a bit of a family club, it was all just nice, you knew the bloke standing behind you on the terrace, and it was like, "That's my window cleaner," or whatever. (Laughter)

Interviewer: You did? (Laughter)

Jonny Moore: Yes, but you still get that, I think, anyway.

Pat Jackson: Yes, it doesn't take long. Three or four games and you're recognising the people who walk past you if you stand in the same place.

Jonny Moore: Yes.

The opposition has changed and I think the quality of the football has improved, but, in terms of how the Club deals with fans, it's got better, the website is nicer now and everything like that, but I think the personality of the Club is still the same. It's still Stevenage.

Interviewer: You said you stand over there?

Jonny Moore: East Terrace, yes.

Interviewer: Do you have a particular place where you like to stand?

Jonny Moore: I do.

Interviewer: Do you?

Where do you like to stand?

Jonny Moore: You've got the middle entrance there, and I'm just to the left-hand side of it, halfway up.

Interviewer: What, the left-hand side as we're looking at it?

Jonny Moore: As we're looking at it. Just the left-hand side, halfway up.
I go around there. The Barmy Army are behind me and over there a bit.
That's my spot.

Interviewer: Where do you like to stand?

Pat Jackson: Fairly similar.
From the centre line going to the left in that first gangway, I stand at the front just to the left of that gangway.
I like to watch the right backs because that's where I play at my own very amateur level.

Jonny Moore: I know where you are now. Come and say, "Hi," next time.

Pat Jackson: Just shake hands across, yes.

Interviewer: Is anyone ever in your spot?

Jonny Moore: Yes, actually.
This will sound horrible. I came in the other week and, no offence to them, there were a lot of older people.
That was fine because they were all supporting the team.

That's great and I'm not ageist, but there were a lot of older blokes and ladies standing around where we do, and I was a bit like, "Oh, right. Okay."

Interviewer: "I'll be earlier next week"?

Jonny Moore: Yes, "I'll squeeze in."

Yes, exactly.

No, you can stand where you want. It's not reserved.

There was someone a few years back, actually. I was standing there and they turned up. I think the match had already started and it was really busy. They were like, "I normally sit there."

I was like, "Go away."

I was like, "You can stand anywhere you want."

Pat Jackson: "If you get here on time"?

Jonny Moore: Yes.

Interviewer: It's preferable to stand as opposed to sitting over this side?

Jonny Moore: I think it's what different people want.

I've got a mate who's a season-ticket holder, and he doesn't like going on the terrace at all, really. I've never actually

managed to convince him, not even for a game that he hadn't got his ticket for, like a cup game or something like that.

He doesn't like standing and he doesn't really like singing and chanting, but I'm all for it.

It gives you the option, really, doesn't it?

Pat Jackson: Yes.

I've been in the stand twice, and the atmosphere on the terrace is why I go over there. It's a little bit cheaper, but it's mostly to do with the atmosphere.

Interviewer: How much cheaper is it?

Jonny Moore: It's only £2.

Pat Jackson: Yes, my season ticket was £50 cheaper, going that side, I think.

Jonny Moore: I haven't seen the ticket, but, yes, it's £2 a game.

Interviewer: How much is a season ticket?

Pat Jackson: I pay £275, but I'm doing a full-time-student course in my own time as well as my job. It was £325 for a full-paying adult.

Interviewer: What do you get for that - all home games?

Pat Jackson: Yes, all home games and free entry to Reserve team games.

Interviewer: Do you go to away games as well?

Pat Jackson: Only one so far. I went to Southend United last year.

Jonny Moore: I go to a few.

I went to Southend as well last year. I'm planning a few this season. I'm really looking forward to Notts County away. My girlfriend lives in Nottingham, so we've already got it all planned out.

We're going to take our mates up. We're going to stay in a house, we're going to go to the game, and then we're going to go out clubbing afterwards. That's the plan.

I've been to a few over the last few years.

In the Conference, I went to Ebbsfleet away and Mansfield, which was the best away game ever, just to let you know.

The season that we got into the Conference play-offs: we had Mansfield on the last day of the season and we had to get a result from it to get into the play-offs.

In the end, we lost. The game was an absolute farce. We lost 2-1. We had a player sent off. The Mansfield fans invaded the pitch about five times at the end.

It was an absolute joke, but we managed to sneak in because Kettering won their game against Kidderminster or something. They won 1-0.

We only found out at the final whistle, and because we'd just lost, all the players were looking dejected on the pitch, but we were all shouting, "Yes, 1-0 to the Kettering," because we'd just got into the play-offs.

They didn't realise.

Then, I think Scott Laird, the left back, walked over and then he realised. He did a little fist pump like that. (Laughter)

It was a magic moment.

Pat Jackson: It will be Notts Forest next year, which is even bigger.

Jonny Moore: Yes, exactly.

Interviewer: How come you went to that?

Was it an important game that you went to away?

Pat Jackson: No, not at all. Fairly local.

I went on the coach. It was just that next step of being a Boro fan, I guess.

Interviewer: Do they put on a coach?

Pat Jackson: Quite often, yes.

Jonny Moore: Yes, I think for the away games.

You have to, obviously, pay for it, but they do put on a coach to everywhere.

Pat Jackson: It's the Supporters' Association usually, isn't it?

Jonny Moore: Yes, SA do it.

With the Southend game, it was on the bank holiday as well, wasn't it?

Pat Jackson: Yes, it was.

Jonny Moore: The sun was out.

You're down in Southend for the day and you can go to the game. It was really good.

Interviewer: What was that game like?

Pat Jackson: Oh, a robbery.

They lost 2-1, as it?

Jonny Moore: Something like that.

Pat Jackson: Peter Winn was sent off for kicking someone in the face. He put his foot up to control the ball down, but there was a guy running in the other direction who ran straight into it.

Jonny Moore: Yes, his face ran into his foot, not the other way around.

Pat Jackson: Yes, it was unfortunate, but it was a red card.

They were the better side for the second half. Mousinho missed a penalty, which is a running theme.

In fact, did they miss two penalties that game.

Or did they miss one and score one?

Jonny Moore: I think we only missed one.

Pat Jackson: No, that's right. They missed one and they had two not given that should have been given.

There were two really blatant ones and then Byron Harrison fell over.

Yes, they're given 20% of the time, but he gave it. It was like a charity penalty.

No, they deserved something in that game.

Jonny Moore: It was really good. We brought loads of away fans down to that. Away games are always better when you have more people there.

Pat Jackson: It was full, wasn't it?

Jonny Moore: Yes, it was absolutely packed.

Pat Jackson: There were about 6,000 in the stadium. It was pretty full. You couldn't hear the Southend fans wherever you were sitting.

Jonny Moore: Yes, it was fantastic, which was such a big difference compared to some of the other away games I've been to. I went to Burton away last year and it felt like there were about less than 100 Boro fans in the away end, and they were all quite spread out. Burton is a not very nice place. I had a very dodgy taxi driver. He offered to drive me back to Nottingham for a fiver. He looked really dodgy, and I was like, "No, you're going to mug me." (Laughter)

Pat Jackson: Then, drive you to a field?

Jonny Moore: Yes, and take my kidneys.

No, it's such a big difference going to a game where there are loads of Boro fans going away.

You hear from various people saying, "Oh, are you going to this away game?"

"Yes, I'm going."

"Yes? Oh, alright."

Everyone goes. There are various pictures we have there of an invasion of Stevenage fans.

They're always good days out.

Interviewer: Do you think it's distance or days of the week why people might not go to away matches?

Jonny Moore: Yes.

Tuesdays are always difficult because people have work the next day if it's a long way to travel.

If it's a Saturday, it depends.

Today is Bury away, but that's Manchester and that's a long way to go.

I think, anyway, so, no, I haven't bothered with that one.

I think we're playing Leyton Orient away in a couple of weeks' time and that's reasonably close. We'll probably get there on the Tube, I imagine.

Pat Jackson: Yes, you can.

I was planning to go to that game and then I got a wedding which I'd got to go to, which seems to be another running theme.

I missed the last cup final at Wembley because of a wedding.

Inconsiderate people getting married on that day. It's outrageous. (Laughter)

Interviewer: Not that much of a fan to not go to the wedding?

Pat Jackson: Oh, well, I can miss one game and it doesn't feel too bad. I can miss a wedding and I'll be living it off for the rest of time.

Interviewer: Yes, it's not like you could repeat that with a rerun.

Jonny Moore: No.

Well, you can't repeat the game either if it's a cup final.

Yes, I think Stevenage will forgive you for missing the odd game. (Laughter)

No-one will forgive you for missing a wedding.

Pat Jackson: No, I have to look at my girlfriend every day. I can't...

Interviewer: Give me your most memorable game, good or bad, or both.

Jonny Moore:

Most memorable game?

Ooh, Newcastle in the FA Cup last year. We thrashed them 3-1.

It was absolutely amazing to get Newcastle after we'd lost to them in the FA Cup in 1998.

Obviously, I wasn't a big fan back then. I was only a kid, but I was aware back then even of the hype going around about it in town, and to then draw them again was a dream come true, really. Then, we absolutely hammered them, which was lovely. (Laughter)

I wouldn't say they didn't turn up. They put out a very strong team, and we were just absolutely fantastic that day. Nothing went wrong for us.

Interviewer:

Were there a lot of people here?

Did you come to that?

Pat Jackson:

I was on holiday the day the tickets came out, so it was sold out by the time I got back. I watched it in the White Lion in the Old Town. It was absolutely full of Boro fans and two Geordies, who took a lot of stick but very amiably throughout the day.

No, it was brilliant. It was that sort of game where you think, "If the lower league team wins it, they're going to sneak it 1-0."

It wasn't like that at all. It was like a proper Premier League 3-1 - a competitive game. It was a really good performance.

Jonny Moore: Yes, the atmosphere was absolutely electric. When we scored, for a moment, there was a split second where no-one quite believed it. It was silence for a split second and then everyone just started going mental.

Interviewer: How did it go?
What happened?

Jonny Moore: It was an own goal, but Stacy Long claimed it.

Pat Jackson: One of his many deflected goals. (Laughter)

Jonny Moore: It was a massive deflection, yes.
Who was it after that?
Bostwick?

Pat Jackson: Bostwick, with a typical 25-yard thunderbolt.

Jonny Moore: Then, Joey Barton scored, which was actually a really good goal. He booted it in from way out.
Then, Peter Winn, right at the end, ran up the left and chipped it over the defender.

Pat Jackson: That was a really good finish, that was.

Jonny Moore: It was fantastic, yes. I don't know why he's on loan at Cambridge. I'd still have him.

Yes, it was absolutely amazing. It's the best game I've been to by a long way. More games like that, hopefully, this year in the Cup will get some more higher opposition teams.

Pat Jackson: The draw is today, isn't it, for the FA Cup First Round?

Jonny Moore: Yes.

We seem to do well against. Then, it will get more fans into the stadium and, hopefully, they'll start coming along more regularly.

Pat Jackson: We want to draw big teams because we've played better against big teams than little teams we've had this season. We beat Charlton. We beat Sheffield Wednesday. We struggled against very, very mediocre Yeovil.

It's weird how they up their game and then...

The Yeovil performance: it looked like they came into it thinking, "Yeovil are rubbish, so we don't want to give them a goal and let them get their confidence up. We just want to make sure we don't concede."

That really inhibited them, going forward, in the first half.

Then, in the second half, they dominated it but couldn't score and had one disallowed, which was devastating with five minutes to go.

Disallowed, and then missed the penalty.

Interviewer: Have you got a really memorable game?

Your favourite game?

Pat Jackson: It's got to be the play-off final from last year. Getting the Club to its highest level ever was amazing.

Admittedly, I was at a wedding that day and getting text updates on the game, but that made it all the more special, and then going back and watching the highlights and getting smashed. It was a really good day.

I guess 5-1 against Sheffield Wednesday this year will live on in the memory a long time for different reasons.

The thing that struck me about that the most was the 3-0 at half-time.

At half-time on the terraces, there was just a stunned murmuring. Not quite silence, but people were in disbelief. They were saying, "Is this really happening?" and then they carried on.

Was it four at half-time?

Jonny Moore: Something like that. We dominated.

Pat Jackson: It was four at half-time, wasn't it, because then Charles scored the fifth?

It was 1-1 in the second half.

Jonny Moore: Yes.

Pat Jackson: That kid has done a whole lap of the stadium up and down the stairs. Brilliant.

I see the Westley boot camp is very early this year. (Laughter)

Jonny Moore: Yes, just to let the recording know what's going on, there's a child running around the stadium outside.

Interviewer: The stadium has always looked like this since you've started?

Jonny Moore: Yes, since I've come, it's always looked like this.

They've put up a new scoreboard.

Pat Jackson: The police control box last summer.

Jonny Moore: Oh, yes.

Interviewer: Where's that?

Pat Jackson: That bit in the corner there.

Jonny Moore: That building there, yes.

Interviewer: Oh, right.

Jonny Moore: They had to make a few changes when we came up to the Football League. We had to have a police control room.

Interviewer: Is that what this says - 'Control Room'?
Sorry, I can't read that from this angle.

Jonny Moore: Yes.

Pat Jackson: They gave them a directors' box last year as a kind of make-way for being in the League, but then it was a notch down a little.

It just like a burger shack, wasn't it, on the corner, and they put a proper building there in its place?

Jonny Moore: Yes.

I'm trying to think of any other changes.

It's had a lick of paint, which is nice.

Pat Jackson: The pop-up sprinklers are new, obviously.

Interviewer: What do you think of them changing that one down there?

It's that one they're changing, aren't they?

Jonny Moore: Yes, the North Stand.

I think it will be really good. I hope it gets going sooner rather than later.

Although you can argue that we don't need it because all the fans we have do fit in the stadium every week, I think it will make the Club look a lot better.

When you're driving down the road and you see the stadium, it does look a bit Non-League still, which it was two years ago.

I think if we had a proper front to the ground, then it would be a real statement. Hopefully, we'd then get in more people.

Interviewer: Yes, because that looks like the front, doesn't it, as you're going down the road?

Jonny Moore: Yes.

The main entrance is hidden by the trees.

That's a busy road. You're coming out of it when you're going in and out of town, and you see it when you're coming off the motorway.

Pat Jackson: You still get that when you're trying to talk people into coming along to watch the Boro. They're always like, "Oh, no, they're a 'hoof-it-up-and-under-chaser' side."

That's the image that you get if you don't know the team.

Once you get people coming along, they stay coming along because the football is good, the attitude is good and it's an exciting day out, but until you get over that, they're a Non-League team punching above their weight and just scrapping points here and there.

Interviewer: Do you have friends that come with you?

Jonny Moore: Usually, yes.

I've got a mate that comes to most home games with me, although there have been a few that he hasn't come along to.

Then, he's got a few friends as well that we all bring along.

We probably take about five of us, usually, but I've come before by myself, which I did the other week. It just depends.

Although it's good to have a day out with your friends, at the end of the day, you're never alone when you're with other Boro fans.

Pat Jackson: I reckon that I come on my own about half the time, but, as you say, I stand in the same place so I chat to the people by me now. Half the time, there are a couple of guys from work who come along as well.

That's why I don't get to as many away games, I think, because I'm happy to come down here on my own. It's a much bigger commitment to go 300 miles on your own in a coach.

That's only when someone else will come along, and that's quite rare.

Interviewer: You've not got any close friends that are supporters of Stevenage?

Pat Jackson: No.

As I say, I came down here to work, and most of the people who work there aren't Stevenage locals. They've come here, so they've come here with teams from other places.

A lot of them are just, "I don't want to watch League One football. League One football is not interesting," but I've watched Wednesday slide down to League One and I know that the football at this level is still decent.

To watch Stevenage get up here so quickly as well, yes...

Jonny Moore: I'll come along to an away game with you.

Pat Jackson: Yes, well, let's do that.

Interviewer: You can make friends now. (Laughter)

Pat Jackson: Yes, that's it. I'm going to move my standing place and stand in his star. (Laughter)

Interviewer: You said you had a girlfriend. Well, you've both got girlfriends.
She doesn't come with you?

Pat Jackson: She doesn't like football at all.

Interviewer: Does your girlfriend like football?

Jonny Moore: Well, she prefers rugby, but, no, I've brought her along to a few games before.

I took her along to Portsmouth in the Carling Cup last year.
She got really lairy.

Her dad used to bring her down in the 1990s. I was having a chat with her about this day the other day, and she was saying about how she used to come down and her dad would teach her all the naughty chants. Then, she would have to shut up when she got home and got to her mum.

She said that her favourite player was Efe Sodje, who played for us in the 1990s. That's the only player she knows.

Interviewer: Ah.

Are there a lot of women in the stands?

Pat Jackson: Yes, a few, and a lot more kids these days as well.

I know they're doing the 'Bring your under-11s in for £1' or something deal this year, which is good.

Interviewer: Oh, are they?

Jonny Moore: Yes.

Pat Jackson: They're doing a lot to attract younger supporters in, and that makes a big difference as well because they're going to keep coming and developing as fans as they go.

Jonny Moore: Oh, definitely.

Yes, you've got to get the kids that are at all interested, I think, and then that will do us well in the future.

Pat Jackson: The Academy down the road is absolutely buzzing when we get in there. There are loads of kids in there on four or five of the pitches, so there are a lot coming through. The Academy is really important.

Jonny Moore: Yes.

There are normally a fair few women around.

Terraces normally give off the impression that they're unwelcoming, manly places full of angry blokes.

It's right on the East Terrace.

I said earlier about the older group of people that were there, but there are all sorts of people that come in that you perhaps wouldn't see at other terraces.

We're not Millwall or anything. (Laughter)

Pat Jackson: Yes.

You get banter with the away fans and you get banter with the players, but if they give it back in a friendly way, then it is friendly banter. It's never aggressive.

Jonny Moore: Yes.

I think, also, when you see anyone on the terrace get a bit over-the-top, everyone tells them to calm down.

It's been said before, at the fans' forum at the start of the season, that Boro fans generally police themselves.

Interviewer: Oh, right.

Jonny Moore: Yes, we don't like them taking things too far.

Pat Jackson: I think that's fair. I've seen that.

There's the really scary steward as well. With just one look from her, you think, "That's it."

Jonny Moore: Yes. (Laughter)

Pat Jackson: I wonder if her name is actually Mary or whether they just call her that because it rhymes with 'Scary'.

I don't know.

She was out the front before. She told me which gate.

Jonny Moore: She's really nice. She's great.

Interviewer: She polices the home fans?

Jonny Moore: Yes, it's 'Scary Mary', as we call her, but I hope she doesn't mind because she seems like a really nice lady.

Interviewer: She's probably used to it. I think she's been here a long time if it's the one I'm thinking of.

It's the one that's walking around at the moment?

Jonny Moore: Yes.

Pat Jackson: It looks like a lot of that for the volunteers.

I know there's a woman on the turnstiles where I come in on the 602, and she's a cleaning lady at my work as well, so I see her around the place. She's been doing it for 25 or 30 years, just sitting there, so we have a little chat every time I come in.

Interviewer: Do you come in at a particular point or can you come in anywhere?

Do you have a routine?

Jonny Moore: What do you mean?

Interviewer: Is there only one way in?

Jonny Moore: No, you've got all the different entrances to all the stands.
If you want to go on the East Terrace, you can either go into the middle entrance or the one over...

Interviewer: Oh, so you have to come in at a specific place?

Jonny Moore: Yes.

I normally just queue up over at the end in front of the burger bar to get in, but that's mainly because I go to my friend's house and the pub before. It's down that way.

I think lots of Boro fans drink in the...

Pat Jackson: The Mutual Friend?

Jonny Moore: The Mutual Friend, yes.

Interviewer: Oh, yes, I know.
Over that way?

Jonny Moore: Yes.

Then, on match days, you can walk up the cycle track and into the ground.

Pat Jackson: I come down through the Retail Park from my house. I set off about 2:00pm, get in there, and buy the programme from the programme seller guy who always says, "Cheers, Jim," to every single person he sells a programme to.

I've started saying it back now. I don't know whether he likes that or not, but, still, yes...

Interviewer: You often come on your own, you were saying?

Pat Jackson: Yes, about half the time, I do.

Interviewer: You'll have to go up to the Mutual Friend now beforehand.
(Laughter)

Pat Jackson: Yes. (Laughter)

There's a good beer at the Mutual Friend as well.

It's a CAMRA pub, isn't it?

Jonny Moore: Yes. A decent range of ales.

Pat Jackson: It's got a cider festival on this weekend, which I'm going to give a miss because I get terrible hangovers from cider these days.

Interviewer: Have you got any games that you watched that you'll always remember because they were awful?

Jonny Moore: Games that were awful?

Pat Jackson: Hereford United last year was a 0-0, Tuesday night game, and it was just two teams hoofing it back at each other for 90 minutes. It was terrible.

The worst thing about it was standing, watching as a Stevenage fan, freezing and thinking, "We've played so much better than this, this season. Where has the 'passing it on the floor to each other' football gone? We could easily beat this side. They're rubbish. We're not. We're just doing the same as they're doing."

Yes, that was a frustrating night.

Jonny Moore: For me, I'd say when we lost to Luton in the Conference-winning season.

Luton fans: we had to give away about half the stadium to them.

I don't know if you were there.

Pat Jackson: No.

Jonny Moore: They stood, basically, on the East Terrace, so, at the middle entrance, they put up massive barriers and then they had entirely half the stadium.

It was on police advice, apparently, because Luton fans can be a bit naughty to say the least.

Yes, we lost 1-0 and we had a goal disallowed as well. It was absolutely dreadful because they were trying to win the league as well.

It was quite bad-tempered that day, and I left feeling like, "Oh, we're going to lose. We're going to drop the title and it's all going to go wrong."

We won the league in the end, so it was great, but, yes, I came out that day thinking, "Oh, that's it. Title challenge over."

It all worked out for the best.

Pat Jackson: Were you at the game where Lawrie Wilson had his leg broken in that really bad tackle?

Jonny Moore: No, I wasn't.

Pat Jackson: I think that's my single worst incident, being at a game as a Boro fan.

I was watching that and it was just horrendous.

Then, he scored on his debut on the way back, so it all turned out alright in the end.

Jonny Moore: Was it properly like, “Snap”?

Pat Jackson: Yes.

He passed it off and the guy hit his standing leg just below the knee.

It was an obvious straight red. It could have been career-ending.

That was the worry because he’s been one of our best players for seasons, with ‘Top Assists’, and it’s great watching him and Ronnie down the right-hand side. They’ve been playing together for so long now that they know each other, so to see him getting crunched like that...

Jonny Moore: I think he’s been better since he’s come back, actually. He was out for almost a year, I think, with that injury, but then he came back and he’s been fantastic since.

There are a lot of players that get injured and they come back and they’re never quite the same, but for him to actually improve is great.

Pat Jackson: Great.

Jonny Moore: You’re thinking of more questions now. (Laughter)

Interviewer: Yes, true. I had a question and I've forgotten it. That's always the way.

Have you got favourite players?

That's what I was going to ask. Everyone always wants to know the answer to that, don't they?

Jonny Moore: Do you have any favourite players?

Pat Jackson: I have Ronnie Henry as my favourite player at the moment, I think.

Interviewer: Where does he play?

Pat Jackson: Right back.

Interviewer: That is..?

Pat Jackson: The right side of defence.

In the second half, we usually get to see him on our side of the pitch, because they normally attack that far end by choice.

Yes, I love watching Ronnie play, because it's what I'd like to be able to do.

Jonny Moore: Yes, he's been a rock. I think he's the player that's been with us the longest now. He's been there for about five years or so. It may be more.

Pat Jackson: Yes, he might get 300 appearances this year, which would be [Crosstalk 0:36:12].

Jonny Moore: Yes, exactly, so he's been with us for a long time.
He's just been a rock since he's been here, really, in defence. He's a good player.
I like Michael Bostwick, because he's quite a young player but he's been with us for, again, quite a long time.
There were rumours that he was going to leave and go to a bigger club, but he stayed and he's helped us get up the leagues, so credit to him.

Interviewer: What position does he play?

Jonny Moore: He's a midfielder, but he can play in defence as well.
He's also quite good at the long-range shots.
He can do a bit of everything, really, can't he?

Pat Jackson: Yes.

Jonny Moore: He's good.

That's about it, really.

Interviewer: What do you think of the current manager?

Pat Jackson: I like Graham Westley. I like his attitude and the way he brings in players that fit the attitude.

It's not about the skills, necessarily. You can mould that in.

I know there was some controversy because he went away and came back, but he went away before I came to Stevenage. That was before, so I only know the positives.

Jonny Moore: Yes, the same for me. I didn't ever actually see him in his first spell at the club.

I think he's fantastic, actually. I think all the success in recent years has been down to him.

People say a lot that he's got a very hard training regime and he gets the players doing weights and training all day, every day, but it's been great for us and we've had so much success with him.

He's a real character as well. If he left, I'd be devastated.

Interviewer: Really?

Jonny Moore: Yes, I would.

Pat Jackson: That's my biggest fear for the future, actually, I think - someone spotting him and poaching him away.

He's the hardest thing to replace. His vision for the club, his attitude and his pulling everyone together to meet that vision is the big thing.

Jonny Moore: He signed a new contract at the start of the year.

Pat Jackson: Yes, a lot of people sign two-year contracts, which is important because it's protecting your best assets, but that doesn't mean that he's not going to go.

Alright, you get a bit of compensation for him, but it's not the same as losing that force.

Jonny Moore: Our players are great, but, if any of them left, ultimately, we would be able to replace them, I think, anyway. Whereas, if the Manager, Westley, went, then I think we'd be in trouble.

We'd have to get someone in who had the same sort of ethos and had the same style of play, but he's a bit unique, really.

I don't think there are many others like him, unless we got Dino Maamria, who's one of the coaches, to take on the management. I don't know if that would work very well.

Pat Jackson: I think that's what impressed me most about last season.

The gaps that were obvious were the left-wing creative midfield and goalscorers, and they brought in players - free

transfers and loans - to fit that bill. I don't know whether that would happen without that drive from Westley.

He brings players in who have the right attitude to fit his mould, and if they don't want to do his 'nine to five' training, they can go and play somewhere else, like Rohan Ricketts.

Stevenage was linked with him. He came in and went, "Yes, it's a bit too much work for me," and went off to play in Ireland.

You're like, "Yes, you don't want to sign names. You want to sign people who are going to meet your work ethic and push the team on."

Jonny Moore: Yes, definitely.

I think the players that come in get on with him. He respects the players and the players respect him.

I don't know if that would be the same with anyone else.

Pat Jackson: I think it would be very difficult to replace him with someone like him.

I think if he went, you'd see a slow drift away of the better players, and then bringing in other players to meet the same...

It would be hard to keep the Club punching above its weight without the attitude it has got now.

Jonny Moore: I think Mark Roberts as well has been a fantastic captain. I think he's also quite a big part of the success.

He and Westley seem to get on well. He's a really passionate player.

We've got a picture of him there beating his chest and being a bit angry.

Interviewer: Oh, right, yes.

Pat Jackson: He does come over to these terraces and do that to us quite a lot, doesn't he, to orchestrate the fans and get us going?

Jonny Moore: Yes, exactly.

I think, after Westley, he's going to be particularly irreplaceable. We'd get another defender in, but he brings something else to the team, more than just technique and ability.

Commitment.

Pat Jackson: Yes.

Interviewer: Do you think that's possibly what is lacking in the Premiership teams - that they don't have that same kind of..?

Jonny Moore: Yes, some of them, I'd say.

Well, I don't know about the Premiership, but other teams tend to just have a constant flow of players going in and out. Whereas, Graham Westley has been with us for a good few years now.

Our defence is the same that we had in the Conference. We've got a real core of a team that has been here for a long time, and they're passionate about the Club. They want to see us do well.

Whereas, I think, at other clubs, where you've got an open-door policy where everyone just comes and goes all the time...

Interviewer: "Not me," or whatever drives it?

Jonny Moore: Yes, exactly.

Pat Jackson: It makes a big difference to the fans.

If you're supporting the same group of players, season on season, it adds to just supporting your club, because you know the players more and you know they're committed to it.

It does make a big difference.

Jonny Moore: It's always exciting when we get a few new players in, to see how they're going to do and how they're going to fit into the team, but I wouldn't like it if we were the sort of club that had mass clear-outs and replaced the whole team, year on year. I think it would definitely lose something.

Whereas, we've got a good group of players. They've brought us success so far, so, hopefully, they'll continue to do so.

Pat Jackson: You obviously have to add to and evolve your squad over time.

We've brought in most recently Harrison and Reid, who are really exciting, and Mousinho. Then, Shroot and Myrie-Williams this season are looking to fill that left-midfield weakness, which I still think we have a little bit.

Jonny Moore: Yes.

Pat Jackson: Shroot looks like a good prospect. I like his attitude and his work rate. The things he said when he joined the Club were really quite powerful.

They're looking at, I think, Josh Walker in January, permanently. They couldn't get it done in the previous transfer window, so they got him on loan for a bit.

He hasn't featured as much as I thought he would.

Jonny Moore: He's a player we brought in. We had him on loan before, actually, last year.

Pat Jackson: Yes, he scored a great free-kick against Wimbledon in the Cup here.

Jonny Moore: Yes.

He's meant to be a really good player, but he doesn't seem to get many games.

He's only been on a couple of times, hasn't he, really?

Pat Jackson: He's on the bench a lot.

I'd love to see him as a permanent signing.

Interviewer: He's not behaving himself?

Jonny Moore: Maybe. I don't know.

Pat Jackson: He was probably building up that match fitness. That's what a lot of people seem to need to deal with when they get here.

It takes six months to get to that level of fitness that the rest of the squad have got.

Jonny Moore: Definitely, yes.

Pat Jackson: He takes a great free-kick and we're missing that at the moment. We look a lot less dangerous from free-kicks than a lot of other clubs.

Although I like Craig Reid. He's started taking corners, and they look a lot better now.

Jonny Moore: Yes.

The only thing is that, obviously, nothing lasts forever and, one day, the players we have and the Manager will go.

Hopefully, it's not soon. I'd like it to be in the distant future, but it will happen one day.

The way the Club is, we are building for the future, and, hopefully, when it does happen, then we'll be prepared for it and Phil Wallace, the Chairman, will know what to do and get us through it.

Pat Jackson: He's thinking, long term, about the legacy for the future, and that's important as well as a fan, so you know that legacy is secure.

You've got confidence its secure because he's talked to us about where he's going to take the club forward and what he's looking to do in 5 and 10 years from now.

Interviewer: This Q&A session that you went to: have they not that done that before?

Jonny Moore: I think they've done them for a few years. It was the first one that I'd ever been to, though.

Pat Jackson: I hadn't heard of them before.

Jonny Moore: I don't think very many other clubs do it, or not clubs this high in the league system anyway.

I think, probably, a few Non-League clubs do it, but they've only got about 10 fans, or one man and his dog.

Yes, I think not very many other teams in League One really do that, so it's fantastic.

Pat Jackson: Yes, it was a really good evening.

Jonny Moore: Yes, learning about his ambitions and all that sort of stuff.

It's reassuring for the fans as well that the people who work for the Club are really driving this forward and have a real vision of what they want to do and where they want us to go.

Pat Jackson: It's certainly not something I've ever seen before, the interaction between the Manager and the Chairman.

You think the Manager is fully focused on the next game, but there's more than that and you have to think about the future as well.

Jonny Moore: Yes, as a manager, Graham Westley, although he's obviously focused on the next game with the players, it seems as if he's got an aura in terms of things like the development of the Club and stuff like that.

He seems to know what's going on. He doesn't just seem to manage the team. He's quite involved in the day-to-day running of the Club as well, from the look of it.

I might be talking rubbish. I don't know, but it seems that way, anyway.

Pat Jackson: No, he certainly has a big contribution to what we need to pull this club forward, with the Youth Academy, the new training facility, and all that sort of stuff, getting the infrastructure there to make it the club it can be for the size of the population that it's got around it.

It's all good steps.

Interviewer: Have you noticed a difference in the atmosphere since they've been promoted and promoted again with the supporters, or does it just vary, game to game?

Jonny Moore: There have been more fans.

Our attendances are creeping up slowly. Maybe not as quickly as some people would like, but these things don't happen overnight.

Yes, there have been more people, on the whole.

Playing higher-up teams and better teams is always going to improve the atmosphere a bit because you really want your team to win, and it's more exciting than watching some of the old Conference teams that we've played.

We were in the Conference for so long as well. For so many years, we played all the teams hundreds of times before.

Whereas, now, every week, we're basically playing teams that we haven't played before. It's all a bit new and exciting.

Pat Jackson: Yes, I think total attendance has doubled during my time in Stevenage, which is a massive step forward in a short space of time.

We're still very low down in the average attendance with the league, and getting that is the key to securing the Club's future and helping them maintain and push on.

Obviously, the more you get in the stadium and the fuller it gets, the more noise you generate, but that core is still there and the core hasn't changed.

Interviewer: It's a welcoming club to new fans?

People shouldn't be worried about, "Oh, now that they've got where they are, I can't have a look"?

Jonny Moore: Yes, definitely. I think it's really welcoming. Everyone is nice. I've never met a bad Stevenage fan.

Pat Jackson: I was surprised, the first time I came to the ground. There were quite a lot of Arsenal, Chelsea, Man United, Tottenham and Liverpool shirts wandering around.

I'd never seen that at a ground before because I'd never come down to football at this sort of level where people had got second clubs.

I've worn my Wednesday hat every game this season, apart from the game where they played Wednesday. I wasn't quite brave enough to pull that out.

I never get any problems with that. I get questions, and, since that game, sympathy, but, before that, it's fine. People are happy to chat to you about it.

I've got a reason to have that joint allegiance, and it's fine.

Interviewer: What was it like when they were playing each other, then?

Pat Jackson: It was a weird game. I shut my eyes and pretended it wasn't Sheffield Wednesday playing, because watching Stevenage thrash someone 5-1 was brilliant, but watching Wednesday get thrashed 5-1 was painful.

I balanced out about neutral. The Wednesday fans must have been devastated, and the Stevenage fans were in rapture. I was in this middle, surreal sort of place. (Laughter)

No, it was a good game.

Jonny Moore: Yes, it must have been strange.

Pat Jackson: It was weird because they came out in the first 10 minutes, Wednesday, and they played like, "We're going to beat these without even trying because they're Conference and we're Championship," but we're not in the Championship.

That's the attitude of the fans as well.

Then, they were 2-0 down in 10 minutes, and it went straight from, "We're going to beat these without even trying," to, "There's no chance of us getting any points from this game."

We saw their heads drop, and they conceded two more in the next 20 minutes.

Interviewer: Really?

Pat Jackson: That was it.

Then, in the second half, they came out and played properly and drew 1-1, but it was too late then.

Jonny Moore: That seems to be something that Stevenage don't do, I think.

Even when we're losing, we tend to give it a good go. The players rarely seem to get down about things.

Obviously, when we're losing or whatever, it's going to have an effect on them, but I think they're quite motivated and disciplined in terms of really getting on with the job, trying to finish off teams, and getting something from a game even when we're losing.

Pat Jackson: Absolutely.

Even in the five-match losing streak this season, you could see that they were disappointed with it.

Westley was saying, "Well, a loss is only a waste if you don't learn from that loss and don't become better for it."

They were never thrashed. It was always by the odd goal and little mistakes that they could fix.

I think the worst loss in our time has been 3-0 away at Bury last season.

Jonny Moore: Probably, yes.

Pat Jackson: Let's hope we don't get that again today. We'll see how far they've come on from it.

Interviewer: What was that?

Pat Jackson: It was just the biggest defeat the Club had had in that time. Even playing teams like Portsmouth and Reading in the Cup, they kept it closer than that.

Interviewer: Oh, I see.

Jonny Moore: We don't get hammered very much, do we?

Pat Jackson: No, because of the attitude and the work rate of the players, they don't let their heads drop. They keep going.

Even in that Wednesday game, actually, when they conceded the goal at 5-1, you could see the defence having a little kind of, "What the hell was that? Come on, keep going."

Jonny Moore: Yes, "It should have been 5-0"?

Pat Jackson: Yes, exactly.

Jonny Moore: Or more, actually.

Pat Jackson: You want to see that.

There were more arguments, discussion and keeping each other going when they conceded that one than when Wednesday conceded the first.

Their heads dropped and it was, “Oh, here we go again,” sort of stuff.

That difference in attitude between the two teams said a lot about the relative directions they’re going in.

Interviewer: Okay.

Anything else to add that you really want to talk about?

Jonny Moore: Not particularly.

I think this whole project is a really good idea, because we’re a relatively new club and, especially with the success we’ve had recently, it’s put us in the limelight a bit, but it’s important to record these memories and stuff.

It’s not something that smaller clubs really have, and I think it’s just a good idea, really.

Pat Jackson: Yes, because I’ve only been here five years or so, my memories wouldn’t be very valuable because I don’t know any of the Club history before that, apart from a little bit of Championship Manager 3 action, when Dannie Bulman and Dino Maamria were still playing.

I got in touch with other people working on the project and they said, “Current memories are just as valuable because this is a project for the future.”

It’s been great speaking and being able to be involved.

Jonny Moore: Yes, it’s not every day you get to talk about Boro. (Laughter)

Pat Jackson: Now, people are going, "Leave one for what happens next."

Jonny Moore: Yes. (Laughter)

Interviewer: Yes. (Laughter)

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