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START AUDIO

Sam: Hello, I'm Sam. I'm from the university. What's your name?

Cameron: Cameron Lusty.

Sam: Can you spell that for me?

Cameron: c-a-m-e-r-o-n l-u-s-t-y.

Sam: And how old are you?

Cameron: 12.

Sam: And where do you live?

Cameron: Letchworth.

Sam: Right. In what capacity are you here with the club? Are you a fan?

Cameron: I'm a ball boy.

Sam: Oh, wow.

Cameron: I'm a fan as well.

Sam: Ball boy and a fan. That's brilliant. And you come from Letchworth. So what got you interested in Stevenage?

Cameron: Well, I went to see a match a few years ago and then I liked it and then I went to a few more matches when I was a bit older and I just got involved in it.

Sam: What was that first match like?

Cameron: Kidderminster. I don't really remember much about it, all I remember was just walking out into the big Webley stadium when we beat them 3-2 but I don't really remember anything else. I don't actually remember the match, all I remember is the score and eating some lettuce sandwiches actually.

Sam: Really.

Cameron: How old were you?

Sam: Eight.

Cameron: Who took you to that match?

Sam: My dad and I also went with two of my brothers.

Cameron: Do they support Stevenage?

Sam: They don't really like football but they go to a few serious matches.

Cameron: So that was an away game?

Sam: Yes, it was at Wembley.

Cameron: When was your first home game, can you remember that?

Sam: Probably next season, you know. I can't remember who it was against but I remember watching it. I can't remember what my first home game was.

Cameron: Was that the first time you'd been into the stadium?

Cameron: Yes.

Sam: What was that like, coming in here?

Cameron: Bit noisy. Just a great atmosphere. Loads of fans. Couldn't really see much because I'm quite small.

Sam: Do you remember where you stood or sat?

Cameron: Yes, what terrace is it?

Sam: East Terrace.

Cameron: East Terrace, yes. I always sat in there. Well, now I'm a ball boy.

Sam: That's the standing one, is it?

Cameron: Yes.

Sam: Who did you go with to that match?

Cameron: My dad and my grandad.

Sam: What was it like? What did you feel like?

Cameron: I felt like, "Wow, this is like football," because I'd never really seen football before. I'd never actually seen football close up. I was like, "Wow, this is quite good. You can actually see everything properly instead of on TV." I felt like, "Wow, I'm amazed."

Sam: Obviously it felt a lot different?

Cameron: Yes.

Sam: You can't remember the score of that one, did you say?

Cameron: No.

Sam: Do you remember who it was against?

Cameron: Gateshead, I think.

Sam: When you came out of that match, what did you feel like then?

Cameron: I felt, "Wow, I really want to go and see these people play again."

Sam: You said you are a ball boy, how did you get involved in that?

Cameron: Well, my dad just checked on the website and saw that you can become a ball boy so he applied and I became a ball boy.

Sam: When did you start doing that? What was the first match you did?

Cameron: The Fulham friendly, which was actually on my birthday as well.

Sam: That's good.

Cameron: Yes, bit of a birthday treat. The Fulham friendly was the first match I did.

Sam: What does it involve? What happens on the day?

Cameron: Well, you sit down and if the ball comes near you, you help speed up the game. You pick it up and pass it to the player you need to. You help speed up the game as you do it.

Sam: Right. How does it work? Are you picked? Are you every match?

Cameron: I'm every match because you just have to email the guy who does it and then he says, "Okay." You get there and then he gives you where you have to sit and you sit there and that's where you sit for the whole match.

Sam: Where do you sit? Is it different?

Cameron: It varies but I'm kind of next to the dugout now, the away dug out.

Sam: That's a good place, is it?

Cameron: Very fun. I get to hear the away dugouts and I get the ball a bit more as well.

Sam: So on a match day, what time do you have to be here?

Cameron: 45 minutes before the game so a quarter past two.

Sam: What do you do when you get here?

Cameron: Just sit down for a bit, find out where we sit, maybe have something to eat, have something to drink and then go on ten minutes before the match starts.

Sam: Obviously, do you get to meet the players?

Cameron: Yes, you see a few and sometimes they say hello when they're training up and they're walking around so that's quite fun to do.

Cameron: What do you wear?

Cameron: I wear a rain coat, especially if it's raining. I wear a red top, some joggers, some trainers and that's pretty much it. And I wear a bib as well on top of that.

Sam: What does that say on it? Or what is that? Like a fluorescent...

Cameron: Yes, it's yellow but last time, we had to wear pink because it clashed with the away team's yellow so we had to wear pink instead of yellow. That was really fun.

Sam: I notice you've got something there, what have you got there?

Cameron: Just a couple of programmes that were signed by a couple of players.

Sam: Oh wow.

Cameron: I had some more but I can't them. One's signed by Ronnie Henry, our right back and the other one's signed by Stacy Long, our midfielder.

Sam: Okay.

Cameron: That's cool.

Sam: Yes. Do you have to buy those?

Cameron: No. We bought the programmes but then we just got them signed ourselves. We had to buy the programmes.

Sam: So how many programmes have you got, do you think?

Cameron: I had loads but I gave... The ones that weren't signed, I just put in the bin because I didn't need them anymore but I have at least five signatures somewhere.

Sam: That's good.

Cameron: On the programmes, yes. I had loads of programmes because I always bought them at almost every match and tried to get them signed but you know. That's cool.

Sam: How many other ball boys are there? Are there any girls?

Cameron: There's one girl but I think there's probably about 11 other ball boys. There's 12 of us in total.

Sam: Do you think..? It's still called ball boy but do you think that girls can be involved in football or do you think it's more of a boys' thing?

Cameron: Well, I believe that boys are a little bit better than girls but I think more girls should get involved and try to grow girls' football and get involved as a ball boy or a little team or something.

Sam: Do you think women should play football separately to men? Do you think there will ever be mixed football?

Cameron: I think some of the good ones can become mixed like ___[0:06:45] but I don't really think they should play together, all of them.

Sam: You don't think we should have male and female teams?

Cameron: Not seniors anyway, not like professional teams. Maybe under 21s or something could get mixed. Other than that, no.

Sam: Do you go to away games?

Cameron: I went to MK Dons this season and last year, I went to Northampton but other than that, no. Only two unless Wembley counts as well, as an away.

Sam: What are they like? Away games?

Cameron: The MK Dons was an amazing stadium, because you know... The Northampton one was a bit rubbish. It didn't have a clock or a scoreboard but Wembley is amazing as well.

Sam: That was the new Wembley, was it?

Cameron: Yes, I've been there a few times.

Sam: To see...

Cameron: Stevenage, yes.

Sam: To see Stevenage.
You said you stand in the-

Cameron: East Terrace.

Sam: In the East Terrace. Have you ever sat anywhere or did you always stand?

Cameron: No, I've always... I did stand behind the goal once but other than that, no.

Sam: Do you prefer standing or do you think sitting was...

Cameron: I think standing is a lot better because you can see more of the game pretty much and you can get involved with it, like cheering and chanting.

Sam: Chanting, is that a good thing?

Cameron: Depends what the chants are.

Sam: What sort of chants are there?

Cameron: Like, "We can't get enough of you, Stevenage." That's the only one I can remember, actually.

Sam: What do you think the chants are about? Are they to support..?

Cameron: Stevenage. To support Stevenage, yes.

Sam: So they boost up the players. Do you think they boost up the players?

Cameron: Yes, especially if they're directed at Stevenage Football Club. Yes, they boost the players, like, "Look at our fans."

Sam: Have you got a really memorable game that you've watched that you can tell me about?

Cameron: Well, I'd probably have to say, maybe the 3-3 draw we had with Berry last year. I just remember sitting down, just celebrating the goal and then turning around and there was another goal that just got scored. We said, "Wow." It was non-stop cheering because it was to get promoted, pretty much. It's what we had to do to get promoted. It was an amazing game. Amazing atmosphere. 3-3 as well, so lots of goals.

Sam: How did that game play out? Do you remember?

Cameron: Yes, well we missed a penalty and then we scored a penalty two minutes later, then they equalized. Then they scored a second goal in the second half. The first two in the first half but then their second goal was in the second half and then we equalized and then ten minutes later, the guy who scored our equaliser got substituted, even though he'd just come on. Then they scored and then we scored right at the end, I think, to make it 3-3.

Sam: What was that like, just before the third goal?

Cameron: We were like, "Oh my god." I think if we'd lost that, we wouldn't have been in the play-offs so we couldn't have got promoted. We were saying, "Oh my god," biting our teeth. Every opportunity, we had an amazing reaction to. It was almost like, "Oh, did we score? Yay!" and then when that goal went in, we were all ecstatic. Everyone, the Stevenage fans. All the Berry fans were saying, "Oh." We'd given up practically. It was so amazing.

Sam: At half-time, Stevenage was in the lead, were they?

Cameron: One-one, I think actually. It might have been two-one, I'm not entirely sure. I can't remember. All I remember is that we drew three-three and that it was an amazing game. Loads of goals.

Sam: So what was it like after the game? Do you go straight home?

Cameron: Practically, yes. We just go home. We talk about the match on our way home as well. We get home and flick on the TV and see what it has to say about our match.

Sam: So have you got friends who are involved in coming to support the team?

Cameron: Actually, no. That's the thing. All my friend are like, "You support Stevenage." No, it's fine. All my friends... One of my friends follows Stevenage but he doesn't really go to any matches. He just follows them. None of my friends... They support Man United or something.

Sam: Do you support a premiership team?

Cameron: Yes, I support Man United.

Sam: You do?

Cameron: Yes.

Sam: Do you watch those games as well?

Cameron: I watch them on TV sometimes, when I can.

Sam: What's the difference between supporting a team like that and then supporting Stevenage?

Cameron: Well, bigger stadium, more fans and better players as well in all fairness.

Sam: Do you think you can support a big premiership team and then you can support other teams?

Cameron: Well some of my friends say you can't do that but then others just say you can because everyone does.

Sam: So why do you think you can? How do you feel like that?

Cameron: Well, they're in different leagues and I think that I can follow Stevenage and then I follow Man United as well.

Sam: But what happens if Stevenage end up playing Man United?

Cameron: See that's what my friends always ask me. I'd probably support Stevenage because I go to see them actually play while I only watch Man United on TV.

Sam: Do you think that being able to come to Stevenage is one of the things that makes that better? Because obviously, it would be harder to get to Manchester.

Cameron: Yes and it costs more. Yes, I think that because you can actually interact with the players as well. I've got signatures of team players but I don't get signatures of Man United player because I can't.

Sam: So your dad brought you to Stevenage, did he come to Stevenage already as a supporter?

Male: Ironically enough, it was grandad who started it. My dad, he comes with his brother, they're both in their seventies. We call them Waldorf and Statler of The Muppets. Two old man standing there moaning about football but they persuaded us to go and see an FA trophy game at the new Wembley and we all went as a family and it was brilliant. As Cameron said, he got the bug and wanted to come so I said, "Fine." Initially, he came with grandad more than he came with me because I was working but then I started to come as well and it's just great.

Sam: So you're the one who's sort of got Dad into it?

Cameron: Yes.

Male: If you hadn't have come with grandad, I would have never started coming. You went on about it so much.

Cameron: Gave you all the facts on every player imaginable.

Male: He has a terrible memory. He can't forget anything.

Cameron: No. About football anyway.

Male: He'll ask me, "Do you remember this game from six months ago?" "Yes, I do. We won it." "But who scored?"

Cameron: I even know... If I can even see what time they scored, I can practically remember that as well.

Male: He just soaks up... He's like a sponge.

Cameron: Only with football though, I can't remember anything else though.

Male: If you could do it at school, you'd be a genius.

Cameron: I know.

Male: But you can't, you can only do it with football.

Sam: Do you play football?

Cameron: I don't play for a club. I did but then I quit it but I do just go out with my friends and play football at the park or something.

Sam: So it's more about the watching?

Cameron: Yes.

Sam: Have you got a favourite player?

Cameron: Maybe Scott Laird, our left back, he's quite good. Or maybe...
That's probably about it.

Male: You had a favourite player, didn't you?

Cameron: Yes, I had Steve Morris and he left our club a few years ago
but now he plays in the premier league in Norwich. He was my
favourite player. It's probably Scott Laird or maybe Chris Day,
now.

Sam: What was good about him?

Cameron: Steve Morris? Well...

Sam: What made him your favourite?

Cameron: In my opinion, I think everyone who is a captain makes them
my favourite because I just seem to have to have a knack but
he was great with the fans, great with the team, he scored
loads of goals. Pretty much the whole package practically, yes.

Sam: And the player you like now?

Cameron: Scott Laird? Our left back. Again, he's great with the supporters. Every time someone shouts out his name, he treats them like they're his friend practically. He shouts back. He's great with the team as well. Even with his left back, he's not that good at defending. He's probably better at scoring penalties.

Sam: What's the goal keeper like? The Stevenage goal keeper.

Cameron: He owns a pub actually near us.

Sam: Does he?

Cameron: Yes, but he's a great person as well. He always shouts at the defenders, even if they do something right as well. He's one of my favourite players as well.

Sam: Is he good at what he does?

Cameron: Yes, one of the chants we actually shout is, "England's England's number one." He actually played for England's under-21s with David Beckham and Paul Scholes.

Sam: What's his name? Did I ask his name?

Cameron: Chris Day.

Sam: Do you want to tell me anything else about the club? Can you remember an awful game that you thought you were just going to cry or something like that?

Male: Nil-nil Tuesday night in November. When we were in Blue Square for the season what we got promoted. I'm trying to think who we played now, somebody like Forest Green, it was. Ninety minutes in the rain, in the freezing cold and not a single goal.

Cameron: There was one terrible game, when we lost two-one to Reading in the FA cup because we were one nil down but then we equalised and then at the 90th minute, one of their players scored so we lost two one. That was really terrible.

Sam: What's it like when Stevenage lose? In the stands?

Cameron: In the stands? Everybody's going mental. "Oh, what happened?" They blame different players. Everyone blames different players, like, "We should have done this." "We should have done that." Everyone is upset, angry.

Sam: Have you got kit, yourself? All the kit?

Cameron: I had a Stevenage top but I got rid of that a couple of days ago actually because it was too small for me. I got that when we first went to the FA trophy. The second time we went to new Webley in the FA trophy. I just got rid of that because it was too small for me, actually. Other than that, no.

Sam: Do you not want shirts? Are they not important?

Cameron: I do, I do. I think that shirts are another way of just showing how loyal you are to the club but other than that, they're not bad. I wouldn't mind having one myself.

Sam: Are you members?

Cameron: No.

Male: No, we're not. For the same reason he hasn't got a shirt, purely financial, because obviously, we've landed with three boys but funnily enough, I've just got a shirt. One of the boys bought me one.

Cameron: Oh yes, that's right.

Male: With my name and-

Cameron: And 51.

Male: 51 on the back. That was for my birthday a few weeks ago so I now feel guilty that Cameron hasn't got one.

Cameron: That's fine. I'm a ball boy anyway.

Male: I know but we will see. I told you that.

Cameron: I've got an England shirt, which is what I'm wearing right now.

Sam: That one that's read?

Cameron: Yes.

Sam: What's the current strip?

Cameron: It's white with red sleeves, I think. There you go, that's it.

Male: Red underneath, like that so you can't see where the shorts start and end.

Cameron: Well, you kind of can if you're me.

Sam: Has Letchworth not got a football club?

Cameron: No.

Male: No, it folded about ten years ago.

Sam: Would you have supported Letchworth if they did?

Cameron: Maybe, if they were on the Blue Square or something, maybe. I got to see Wolseley a few times with my grandad. Maybe I would have supported Letchworth, maybe.

Sam: Do you think it doesn't really make a difference that you don't live in Stevenage?

Cameron: Well, no. A few of the ball boys, everyone that I know supports Stevenage lives in Stevenage but it's not really a big deal because we can still get here every day, every week even. My grandad just drives us. I don't really find it that massive a problem actually.

Sam: How often are the matches here?

Cameron: It should be every other week that we're at home. Sometimes it varies. We'll be at home for two weeks and then away and then home. It varies but it's supposed to be every other week we're at home.

Sam: Do you do the ball boy every time?

Cameron: If I can, yes but I've done every time so far.

Sam: What can you see from where you're sitting? Is it easier to see?

Cameron: Well, yes because you kind of get a close up of the game anyway. But other than that... You can see all the fans apart from the ones behind you. You can see the dugout better, the managers and all the players, you can see a lot better and advertisements.

Sam: Where is it? Is it right by the line?

Cameron: Yes. Well, actually, you've got the end of the pitch and then you've got a gap from there to the billboards. You sit just in front of the billboards. There's a gap where the players can run onto or you can get ball if it goes off. You're not actually directly behind the line but you're near it enough to get the ball.

Sam: Do you prefer that to standing watching?

Cameron: Yes.

Sam: What do you get from being a ball boy? How does that make you feel?

Cameron: Great because you know you're helping your team in a way and you can get interaction. You can touch the ball. The players talk to you sometimes when they're not playing.

Sam: When you go to school, do you tell people about matches?

Cameron: All my friends ask, yes. One of my friends is like, "Oh look, what Stevenage do?" He supports Chelsea and he says, "What do Stevenage do? Are they better than Chelsea?" I say, "Yes."

Sam: Do you think they're better than Chelsea?

Cameron: No. I really don't. Even though I'm a Man United fan, I don't.

Sam: What do you think of the players for Stevenage, apart from your favourite players? Are they good players?

Cameron: Yes, they're all like different characters. Some of them can be stroppy. Some of them can be energetic. Some of them are great, some of them are rubbish. They're all different characters. There's not two people that are like each other in the dressing room or on the pitch.

Sam: Have you got any players that you really don't like?

Cameron: Well there's one of them, he's alright but he's slightly getting better. He's called Byron Harrison, he's our striker. When we first bought him last season, he barely did anything and now he's just getting a little bit better this season. Other than that... I never really liked him. He's alright but, you know.

Sam: Because he's not good.

Cameron: Yes, because he's not good. I'm just going to be honest. He's just not good but he's alright. But other than that, I don't really hate any players. I just don't think he's good. No, I can't think of anyone else.

Sam: Where did they buy him from? Do you know?

Cameron: Loads of divisions below the Conference for a team. The Ryman Square, I'd never even heard of it. Really low down.

Sam: When you started supporting Stevenage, where were they?

Cameron: We were in the Conference. They were mid-table, second to bottom half. We were in the Conference at the time and then a couple of seasons later, they got promoted and then we got promoted again last season.

Sam: What was that like, when they first got promoted?

Cameron: Ecstatic. We got promoted a few games before the end of the season but it was an away game so I wasn't there. I was watching TV and I was saying, "Stevenage got promoted." I was saying, "Wow, yeah!" My brother came running down the stairs, this was the moment that he liked Stevenage. He ran down the stairs, he said "Stevenage got promoted." I said, "Yeah, woo." The last home game against York, I think that was a nil-nil draw but everyone was ecstatic and loads of people ran onto the pitch. I wasn't allowed to by my dad.

Sam: No.

Cameron: I was ecstatic because we got promoted and the second time was even better because that one came down to one game and that was the play-off final. I saw that on TV and when that one goal went in, everyone, even at home, everyone was like, "Woo, yeah." It was so amazing.

Sam: What was the score of that game then?

Cameron: Our second promotion?

Sam: Yes.

Cameron: One nil.

Sam: Right.

Cameron: At Old Trafford.

Sam: What was that like? Watching that on telly?

Cameron: It was great. Even though I was at home, it was tense. You could somehow feel the atmosphere. It was really tense. Every shot could be that one decisive goal.

Sam: Did they have lots of attempts at scoring?

Cameron: Yes, quite a few. I think the other team actually had more than us in all fairness but yes, we had a few good chances.

Sam: Were they saved or did they just not go in?

Cameron: I think some of them went high, wide, hit the post, saved. Everything possible.

Sam: Did the Stevenage goalie save goals?

Cameron: Yes, he saved definitely a few right vital ones. Again, there's probably went high, wide, hit the bar, everything.

Sam: When was the goal?

Cameron: 41st minute, I think. I definitely know it was in the first half, near the end.

Sam: What was it like when they scored that? What did you feel like?

Cameron: I was just like... I don't get too excited at the first goal because I know there could be others but since that was the playoff, I was more excited than I usually would be but then I also knew... They could get two in the second half or we could get a second or that could be a decisive goal or anything like that. I was more excited than usual but I wasn't too excited.

Sam: What was the second half like? Really tense?

Cameron: Yes, it was actually more... In fact, I think it was more slow. In the first half, there were definitely more shots on target because everyone had to take a chance that they could because they were one nil down or one nil up.

Sam: What was the difference in the way they played then, the team? Was there any difference between the first and second half?

Cameron: The second half was probably a bit more defensive. We had a few players more back in the first half because we were one nil up. We also had players attacking a bit more to get the second goal. It was just different or the same, I don't know.

Sam: Because once you've got one, you've got to make sure you keep that, haven't they?

Cameron: We defended more and then as soon as we got the ball, we kind of attacked more to get a second goal because they needed to get two.

Sam: Did that go in ordinary time or extra time?

Cameron: No, it went 90 minutes and then the finals went and we were one nil up. Everyone... I went round my grandads to watch it because we watched it on Sky and everyone, pretty much, screamed. I thought my nan was going to fall over, even though she doesn't like football. The noise just made her fall over a bit. In fact, I think I was screaming the most. I was going, "Yes, we got promoted," because I think we were in league one. Even though all my friends were saying, "Now, they're going to get relegated again." I said, "No, they're not."

Sam: Where are they now?

Cameron: My dad thinks 13th but I think 16th. I'm not entirely sure on that.

Male: Certainly mid-table, which is fine after nine games.

Cameron: No, actually it's more like 15.

Male: Well, whatever. You know what I mean. This far into the season.

Cameron: Trust me.

Male: Mid table is fine. ____[0:26:33].

Cameron: Yes, mid table. We're mid table.

Sam: So that game, they had to have the points, is that right? That game that you're talking about?

Cameron: It was that game.

Male: The play-off final.

Cameron: The play-off final, yes.

Male: Winner takes all basically and whoever won, got promoted.

Sam: I see, yes.

Male: And it was against Torquay. We played previously in the Conference anyway and we played in the mid-table.

Cameron: This is actually the programme. Not from that match but it's the programme from Torquay, when we played Torquay at home. I can't remember what the score was though.

Male: We played Torquay a few times over the last few years so it was nice to beat them in the final.

Sam: Right, yes. I see.

Male: To beat a team we knew and you're right, it was a good game.

Cameron: Great atmosphere, even though we weren't there.

Male: No, that's right. We created our own atmosphere.

Sam: Where was it?

Cameron: We watched it at my grandad's house but the match was actually at Old Trafford. It would have been at Wembley but then the next day Man United were playing Barcelona in the champion's league final there but the league one, league two play-offs had to be at Old Trafford. The next day, Man United were playing Barcelona in the Champion's League Final.

Sam: So who was at your grandad's? Your grandad?

Cameron: Yes, it was at my grandad's house. It was me, my dad, my grandad, my uncle, well, actually my great uncles, my grandad's brother and my nan. All of us were watching it, just hoping we'd win and we did. Yes, that's cool.

Sam: Is that at the end of the season?

Cameron: Yes.

Sam: Was that at the end of the season?

Cameron: Yes, it was after all of the games. All of the games finished and then we were sixth, which is... Four teams... The top three get promoted automatically and the next four go into a pot and Stevenage were drawn against Accrington, which is a semi-final. We played them twice at home and away, while Shrewsbury played Torquay and then whoever won out of those two games played each other at the final, at the play offs. That's how it works.

Sam: So what was it like here as that was building up, the games that were here? Some of them, I take it, you have to play here and then there?

Cameron: Yes. Actually, again, we didn't see the one at home against Accrington because it was on TV anyway but again, the atmosphere, you could tell was just amazing there and we actually won that game as well. The atmosphere you could tell

was... Oh come on, we've got to at least win the first leg so then we have a chance on the second leg to get promoted. That was quite cool.

Sam: So when was that?

Cameron: Last year. At the end of the season, a couple of weeks after the season had ended was the playoff semi-finals and then the finals were a week later.

Sam: When you started supporting Stevenage, it was still Stevenage Borough?

Cameron: Yes.

Sam: And it's now changed.

Cameron: Yes, to Stevenage.

Sam: What do you think about that? Do you think it makes a difference?

Cameron: Well, we get called Stevenage, even though we've been called Stevenage Borough but our nickname is still The Borough, everybody calls us Stevenage Borough or Stevenage. When I first heard it, my dad actually rang me up because he wasn't

living with me at the time but he rang me up and told me. In all fairness, I was gutted a bit because I thought Stevenage Borough... We would have stayed Stevenage Borough but we still get called Stevenage Borough by everyone apart from people on the TV, just call us Stevenage.

Sam: Do you know why they did that?

Cameron: No, I don't. I really don't know why they did it actually. It is a mystery.

Sam: Do you think they thought it might be a bit more professional? Like the other teams?

Cameron: Maybe, yes.

Sam: I don't know, I'm just...

Cameron: No, it sounds about right.

Male: I think Phil Wallis did say that. The teams with a single name-

Cameron: Our chairman. Phil Wallis.

Male: Have more success. I don't know where he got that from, but...

Cameron: Well, I don't know, look at Manchester United-

Sam: Exactly.

Cameron: Chelsea, Arsenal, Liverpool...

Male: Yes exactly, those teams have united, city or town.

Cameron: Liverpool.

Male: They have a second name and Borough is unique so I don't quite know why but everybody still calls it Borough.

Cameron: Yes, I know. All the supporters anyway.

Male: Even Andrew Green slips up occasionally.

Cameron: Yes, the announcer.

Sam: Do you know anybody who works for the club like that? Like the chairman or anybody like that?

Cameron: No.

Sam: Have you ever met anyone?

Cameron: No, apart from the person who runs being a ball boy, no, not really.

Sam: Do you know where they watch the matches?

Cameron: I don't know.

Male: Who? The directors and that?

Sam: Yes.

Male: From in the stands. On this side, most of them.

Cameron: Fair enough. That's cool. I didn't know that.

Sam: What's the manager like?

Cameron: Great person. Double promotion, great character, shouts when he needs to, tells his players off, congratulates them.

Everything, you know. The whole perfect manager, in my opinion. Better than all the ones in the premier league anyway.

Sam: Do you reckon?

Cameron: Yes, even though he actually owned a business before he got into football. He didn't even play football so he knew nothing about football until he actually started managing a little club then he came to us so that's cool.

Sam: So what's important about a manager for a team?

Cameron: Well I think the manager organizes the players and they keep them in line so they don't do anything stupid. If they're a good manager and have good control of the players then that won't happen. I think they calm the players down and keep them in line, I think that's what a manager does, pretty much.

Sam: Do you think he shows that you don't have to be a footballer? Was he not a footballer then?

Cameron: He wasn't even a footballer. I think he shows that you don't have to be anything involving football to become a manager or involved in football because you can just become involved in football as long as you're good. He did know how to manage a business so as long as you have a little experience in what you're doing then you should be okay and then you grow from whatever you learn.

Sam: So it's managing people skills he's brought from his business really?

Cameron: Yes probably. That's what makes him so good.

Sam: Would you like to have a job in football?

Cameron: Yes. I don't really mind what it is in football. It could be a commentator or a pundit or a manager. I'd love to be a player actually but who doesn't? But as long as it's involved in football, I would love to get involved in football, that's all.

Sam: So have you got any other interests outside of football or is it...?

Cameron: Football. My DS, Xbox.

Sam: What do you play on those?

Cameron: FIFA.

Sam: I was going to say. Football. What team are you?

Cameron: I manage five teams every day. Before ___[0:33:30], I did, didn't I? It was Peterborough, Stevenage, Man United, Real

Madrid, Barcelona, all in one day but the first thing I did manage on FIFA, 11 is Stevenage, or was Stevenage.

Sam: You said you didn't play football for a club or anything like that?

Cameron: No.

Sam: Do you play football at school? Have they got a school team or anything?

Cameron: Yes, I didn't even join this year and I didn't join last year so no, not really because I haven't really been involved for some reason. I just have better things to do like play with my friends.

Sam: And come to Stevenage Borough?

Cameron: Yes.

Sam: What would be your ideal job in football?

Cameron: Player. That would be my ideal job, just to be a player.

Sam: Do you think you could manage a football team?

Cameron: Yes, I'd love to manage a football team as well but I'd rather be a player.

Sam: Why's that?

Cameron: I just really want to play football.

Sam: Play football. Would you play for a team like Stevenage?

Cameron: Yes. I don't really care what team I play for as long as I'm playing football. To be honest, I'd love to play for Stevenage because of the dream. Or Man United maybe.

Sam: I noticed you kept saying "we" when you were talking about the football. So you really connect with the football? You think it is something that you are really, really involved in?

Cameron: Yes.

Sam: Do you think that would be the same if you were just a supporter or is it a bit more now that you're a ball boy as well?

Cameron: Well, I think I'm more involved in the club now I'm a ball boy but I think as a supporter, I try to get involved as much as I can. I think I am more involved now as a ball boy, yes.

Sam: Do you think the supporters are important to the club?

Cameron: Yes, because if you had no supporters, it would just be an empty stadium. All the players would be like, "Oh okay, nobody's here," so yes.

Sam: Do you think it's important to come all the time? As much as you can, obviously?

Cameron: Yes, as much as you can. That's why I kind of hate my dad because he can't afford it now. ____[0:35:37]. Well, I don't hate you, obviously.

Sam: How much is it for a ticket?

Cameron: I don't know, how much is it?

Male: £17 for an adult.

Cameron: I never worry about that.

Male: He doesn't have to worry because the ball boys get in for nothing.

Cameron: I get a free ticket practically.

Male: Sometimes you have to balance going to football and working instead because otherwise works out expensive.

Cameron: Because you're a dad.

Male: Because I'm a dad, yes.

Sam: So as ball boy, do you have to have somebody here, an adult?

Cameron: Yes.

Sam: Do you have to have someone come with you?

Cameron: Yes, my grandad comes with me. He comes to every game practically. He does, he comes to every home game.

Sam: So that's alright. Has the football ticket price gone up, since they..?

Male: Yes.

Sam: They've gone up.

Male: Yes.

Cameron: Yes, I know that.

Male: I don't think it's unrealistic. I think it's still affordable prices but when there's two or three of you who want to come and you're dad and you're paying just occasionally, you have to say, "No." I say, it's great this year because he's a ball boy so I don't have to buy him a ticket so that does help.

Sam: So the ball boy... Did you have to..? I know you said you had to apply online, did you have to come for a..? Do they have loads of kids wanting to do it?

Cameron: Yes, there are loads and loads and loads of kids that want to do it. Twelve of us beat... Over a hundred was it, that applied?

Male: I don't know, probably three times that number. I think the key thing was the first dozen that applied provided they could commit to doing it every week. He was prepared to say, "Right, it will be you twelve, because you were the first in. If you then can't do it or you let me down, I've got other people who want to do it."

Sam: Do you didn't have to have an interview?

Cameron: No.

Male: But you did have to come and meet him and he had to explain everything to you and he sent you all the rules and the regulations and all that?

Cameron: Yes. I even read them in class at school.

Male: I know you did.

Cameron: Well, I say that, I read them in registration in my school.

Sam: So next season, do you have to reapply again?

Cameron: Probably, yes. I think you do. If they're doing then yes, you do so I'll apply for that again next season.

Sam: Is there an age limit on it, do you think?

Cameron: No.

Male: You've got to be 12. The minimum age is 12.

Cameron: Yes, minimum age of 12.

Male: Which is why it was fortunate that the first game of the season-

Cameron: Was my birthday so I would have been 12.

Sam: That was a good birthday present.

Cameron: Yes and that and a sleepover.

Male: Well that bit of the present was free, wasn't it? Here? Me getting you the job as a ball boy cost me nothing but it was a nice present.

Sam: Have you made any friends with the ball boys or did you know them?

Cameron: Yes, well I knew one of them because I did this soccer school at half-term and one of them... I knew one of them because he went there as well, he went to soccer school so when I came here, I knew one of them and then I made friends with a few others as well now.

Sam: What's the soccer school?

Cameron: It was just this thing... It's actually on this half-term as well but it's where you just go there from Monday to Friday and you do all things involved in football like you train, have a few matches, play games, that's all.

Sam: And where's that?

Cameron: Stevenage... Where is it?

Male: Academy.

Cameron: Stevenage Academy.

Sam: That one down there?

Cameron: Yes.

Sam: Who's that run by? Do you know?

Male: It's run by the club, it's their community coaching staff.

Sam: Do they have any players come up there?

Cameron: Well, I only went there one day because I was ill. I had a massive cold the other four days but I think one of their players came up. I'm sure there was something saying that some of their players came up. I think so anyway. No, the FA trophy... Their cup actually came up on the last day. I don't think any of the players did but I know the cup did because I was there on that day. You got to lift it as well.

Sam: That was good, wasn't it?

Cameron: Yes and you got your picture taken with it so that was quite cool.

Sam: Do you think the players should be more involved with local people?

Cameron: Yes, I think they should because loads of clubs do that and Stevenage do it in their own way but I think they should get more involved in the community and the Air Academy. I know loads of teams that do that anyway, I definitely know a few.

Sam: And you think it's important for supporters to really know players?

Cameron: Yes.

Sam: Which I suppose is easier in this situation than in Manchester United or whatever?

Cameron: Man City do that. A few of their players came round to their ___[0:40:15] but I think Stevenage should do that. I think some of their players should connect more with the fans and the academy and the community and all of that.

Sam: Cool. Have you got anything else you want to tell me? No burning desire?

Male: No.

Sam: Anything you want to say about the club?

Male: Good club.

Cameron: Apart from the fact it's good.

Male: It is a good club to be a supporter of as a local player. Alright, yes there are teams closer to Letchworth. There are teams like Hitching, ____ [0:40:49] but they're in other leagues.

Cameron: They're not good.

Male: It's not that they're not good, they're in lower leagues. Stevenage is in a nice position. When we first started coming and they were in the Conference, you got 16 to 1700 fans, now we get 3,500 fans. It's sort of breeds, because more fans come and the club gets more successful, then you get promoted and then even more fans want to come. When we went to the first FA Trophy final at the New Wembley-

Cameron: There were loads of them.

Male: 52,000 people went to that.

Sam: Yes, I saw that. It was a record number or something.

Male: Yes, absolutely. This year, I think they had... Was it 22,000 went to Old Trafford so it was two and a half times that in New Wembley and it was absolutely amazing. For a first football match for you and for Gareth, that was just-

Cameron: And for Reece

Male: And for Reece.

Cameron: They're my two brothers.

Male: That was just absolutely unbelievable.

Cameron: It was a great atmosphere and I'm just glad we won even though I can't remember the game. I just remember eating lettuce sandwiches even though I don't like lettuce. That's all I remember.

Sam: Is that what you had in your packed lunch?

Cameron: Yes. My mum made them.

Male: It was not just lettuce sandwiches-

Cameron: Yes, there was all of this lettuce in them.

Male: It had lettuce in there as well and he doesn't like lettuce.

Cameron: It had ham as well, I think. I remember more about the food than I do about the match.

Male: For a first game, it was a very good game to go to. I mean this year, when we went... The last trophy final we went to...

Cameron: Yes, when Steve Morrison left.

Male: The club laid on so many coaches and just charged everyone £5 a head to get to Wembley which must have cost the club a fortune but it was just an amazing thing to do. I mean, before then, we'd always driven to London and then by the time you've done that and paid for petrol and parked, it's ridiculously expensive for us. To just all go for £5 a head-

Cameron: It's more than £10.

Male: Yes, but for us to all go for £5 on the coach... But that's the kind of thing that the club will do and I think that they are quite aware that they are a local community club and if they want to

get any bigger, they've got to involve the people of Stevenage. Well, of North Herts. I mean, when you listen to the draws at half-time and where the winners have come from, be they ticket holders-

Cameron: Even though most of them have come from Stevenage anyway.

Male: But you've got Welling, you've got Letchworth, you've got... St Neots was running draw tickets the other week.

Cameron: Even though we never win the 50-50 draw.

Male: But what I'm saying is it's quite a widespread area that people are coming from.

Cameron: Last year, we bought a ticket for every home game and we never once won. We matched... We were a thousand off every single time. It's not even funny.

Sam: You never know, fingers crossed.

Male: Absolutely.

Cameron: Shall we buy some more, Dad? That will pay for your whole ticket. I actually did own a season ticket on the year we got

promoted for our Conference to the league two. Me and my brother, Reece got season tickets because Reece rarely came so instead of paying £13 for him every time he came, we'd rather just give him a season ticket every time he does come, he can just do that.

Male: They've put the kid's season ticket up £25. As there's 23 games in the season, that's just over £1 a game. That's why I bought him a season ticket.

Cameron: I even got... If I missed a game, the tickets I'd left, I'd get a player to sign them and then have that. I actually did that with a few of them. I ended up with the manager... I even got our manager's signature. That's quite cool. He was drinking coffee at the time, or tea. I'm not sure.

Male: The day he came round and spoke to the fans. He didn't have to.

Cameron: That was actually our last game.

Male: Ten minutes until kick-off, there's a lot on his mind but he did come and speak to them all.

Cameron: Well no, he's been promoted.

Male: Yes but there's still a lot on his mind. He's still the manager of the club.

Cameron: Were we undefeated for that season? At home?

Male: No, we lost to Luton.

Cameron: At home, yes, that's it. Because we were undefeated at home for the whole season but when Luton came, we actually stood behind the goal and then they won one nil. ___44.35 so we had to beat them at their home as well. All fair.

Sam: Okay. Thank you for your time.

END AUDIO

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