

**File:** BMG Alan Julian.mp3

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Interviewer: If I could have your name first of all, please?

Alan: It's Alan Julian.

Interviewer: How did I know that, Al?

I'm not going to ask you your name because that's public knowledge as well, and we know that you're a Borough player. And welcome back to the club for the second time.

Alan: Thank you.

Interviewer: We're concentrating with these interviews now on your reaction to, first of all, Stevenage getting drawn against Spurs in the Cup, especially at home. How did you react when you heard that, first of all?

Alan: Well, first things first: any game at home, we fancy ourselves. Do you know what I mean? When Tottenham came out of the hat, we thought, "We've got a great chance.", albeit that they

were third in the Premiership at the time, playing some fantastic football.

But, yes, to get drawn against Tottenham, which a few of the lads- it's their team, Tottenham, do you know what I mean? It's a really big one. For me personally, I'd have liked to have got Chelsea because that's my team. But Tottenham, nevertheless, was a fantastic draw for the Club and it was great for the whole town.

Interviewer: Right. You say that, "We fancy ourselves at home." Was there a feeling around the camp that, "We could have won that, at the first attempt?"

Alan: Yes, definitely. I mean, the game itself was obviously a nil-nil draw and it was a tight, close game. It could have gone either way. I think we had chances; they had chances. But by no means- If you didn't know which side was the Premiership side, you wouldn't have said it was Tottenham. Do you know what I mean? I think we more than handled ourselves on the day and we were a little bit unlucky, you know? And then we went away to their place, which is a tough game for anybody. You ask Barcelona or Real Madrid to go to White Hart Lane- it's a tough game. Do you know what I mean?

Interviewer: Of course.

Alan: But we were one-nil up. One-nil up, looking solid. But that little bit of quality, I suppose, that they do have, they showed with [Defoe 00:01:33], sticking it in the goal from 20, 25 yards,

which was a great finish. And they've got that, do you know what I mean?

But I thought we had great chances. We hit the bar; Cudicini made a fantastic save in the replay. And you know, it could have gone our way on the night there, too. But good luck to Tottenham; they beat us. And fair play to them.

Interviewer: And destiny was not, therefore, that we beat Liverpool in the Final of the FA Cup, one-nil.

Alan: That's right. Yes, exactly, I know. But I think we really did show a good account of ourselves. And although I'm never really one to say this after losing a game, the lads should have been proud of themselves that night. Do you know what I mean?

Interviewer: Yes.

Alan: It was a great occasion. A full house at White Hart Lane and the lads did fantastically. And they should be proud of themselves, you know? I never normally say that after being beaten. I like to win games of football. That's me, and that's what the lads are like; we want to win. But that game- I think they did really well and they should hold their heads up.

Interviewer: Right.

It seems that the fans raise their game, just as the team seems to. Do you want to comment on either of those? When we play big teams like this in the Cup?

Alan: Well I think it's natural that- You look down the years, there's been so many shocks in the FA Cup. It's only natural for Tottenham players to maybe underestimate us a little bit. And for us, if we don't raise our game, there's a chance that we could be embarrassed. Do you know what I mean? So I think that always comes into play in those sort of games. So we naturally raise our game. I don't know why that is, because in every game of football, you have to earn the right and you have to earn the respect of the other team. You have to earn your way to victory in any game of football. So I don't really know why that is, but that just seems to be the case. And so it proved in those games.

Interviewer: Yes. And what about the fans down here for the first game? What was your impression of them that day?

Alan: I love the fans here. I had a great time here before. And I've nothing but great things to say about the supporters here. That's why I came back. Part of the reason was because of them. They get behind their teams so well, other than- unlike anybody I've ever known in football, in my career, as yet. And I didn't expect anything else from the fans, to be honest. They were fantastic. And they always get behind the boys.

Interviewer: And what was the atmosphere like then, inside the cauldron of White Hart Lane, with all the Borough fans down there singing?

Alan: When we scored, it was a great thing, to be fair. You obviously heard them. And it gave them a real- something to cheer about. The last thing you want is to go there and get beaten four or five nil.

One nil up and, you know, who's to say another shot wasn't on the cards? And I'm sure the fans were quite optimistic at that point, do you know what I mean?

But it was great; it was brilliant to look to your right- obviously I was on the bench- look to your right and see a big sea of red and white; it was nice.

Interviewer: Excellent.

Alan: Yes, it was good stuff.

Interviewer: Do you think we could have gone further, had we got Bolton? Got past Tottenham and got Bolton?

Alan: Who knows? Like I said- Do you mean in the semi-final, sorry..?

Interviewer: In the next round?

Alan: In the quarters..?

Who knows. It would have been at home and, as I said to you before, we fancy our chances against anybody at home. And

no disrespect to Bolton, but Tottenham are a better side than Bolton. So we held our own against Tottenham, so why not beat Bolton?

But, you know, on the day- It's on the day, isn't it, in football? And who knows, but that's history now.

Interviewer: Yes, yes.

Anything else you want to say about the Cup, while we're here?

Previous Cup runs you've been involved with at Borough?

Alan: Well that's the first time, I think, Borough, in their history, have ever got that far. So nothing can obviously compare to that.

Interviewer: Yes.

Alan: No. That was one of the big highlights of our careers, I suppose, all the lads. Playing against Tottenham Hotspur, at home, drawing with them, and going away to their place. That was a real highlight.

Again, for me, I didn't play- I wasn't lucky enough to play- but it was still great to be involved and be a part of it. And we learnt a lot from that.

So it was good. A really good experience.

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