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R = Respondent/Interviewee (if more than one respondent, use R1, R2, etc.) I = Interviewer

I: This is Gemma Bailey, recording an interview with Chris Pollard on the 1st of August 2024, on behalf of the Yorkshire Cricket Foundation.

So Chris, can you tell me how old you were when you first went to the ground at Park Avenue?

R: I must 'ave been 8 or 9. And my first visit from memory was when the Queen and Prince Philip, or Duke of Edinburgh think he was then, visited Bradford and they came to the Yorkshire Cricket Ground...1954 (sigh) open top Land Rover, no security, the ground was packed with school children, obviously I was one. That's my first memory. And I've thought about this, and other memories of that era I had were of cycle racing, which was a bit strange if you think about it, but there were certainly cycle racing around the perimeter of the Cricket field during the week. White lines for the 4 or 5 lanes that were used, right round, and it were fascinatin'. And I remember that.

And they were wearing crash helmets of the day, which I think they still use in some speed racing. And they're like slotted helmets, not what you and I would think of as a helmet, but... And that was my first sort of proper memory, after the Queen. So that's the only time I've ever met 'er (laugh).

I: (Laugh)

R: As such... 1954.

I: And do you remember the singing? Because I think the school children were doing a lot of singing?

R: No...

I: No?

R: No... I mean you could say lots of things t'me about the day and I won't remember them. We're talking 70 years, 1954. So no.

I: Okay...

R: I can be, I can remember were I was on the terracing, down one side, a long side, I can remember that for some reason, but I can't remember much else.

I: Hmm..

R: In all 'onesty. Can't remember walkin' to the ground, I can't remember walkin' back t'school, cos my school was local, it was Marsh Fields, which was in Little Horton, where the Cricket Ground and the Football Ground are. Can't remember it.

I: (Laugh)

I: What was the area around the ground like, when you were growing up?

R: Mainly it was a Council Estate, known as Canterbury Estate. Quite well populated, a busy road, sort of from the bottom end of the Cricket, Football ground, up to the top in the higher area of Little Horton. Quite smart area, well populated really... There was a Bowling Green at the back of the Cricket Ground Pavillion, which eventually became a Morrisons, having been a 10 Pin Bowling alley.

What's there now? I suspect a supermarket still, but I've never been, in years. So that was how it was.

I: Did you see it change a lot over the years that area?

R: No not really, as a boy going to the football mainly, and some cricket, no not really. The area was fairly well populated, fairly dense in terms of housing. And so no, there wasn't sort of a seismic shift at all...No it didn't stay...I think the only thing that changed was, there was a railway station that made special trains come through from the main Bradford station at Bradford Exchange and it was called [pen clicking 0:4:15] Horton Park Avenue Station. And I remember tha', I remember the steam trains. But of course that's all long gone.

I: Hmm...

R: 50 years or more, but that was probably the only change I remember. Then of course, later the football ground fell into disrepute...

I: Hmm...

R: And disrepair, and was part built on for what they called a "Cricket Wicket" I don't know what it's called now. Similar sort of facility. But I've no idea now.

I: Yeah...

I: And what did the ground look like when you first went?

R: Very impressive, because then I suspect that it could seat maybe 10 or 15 thousand spectators, it was quite big. And a very large Victorian Pavilion. Each team, whoever were playing would 'ave come out of the left hand and the other at the right hand. So it was quite mesmerising really to see the 2 teams take the field, from really different angles. Now I always remember that'. So yeah that was then, now of course all that's gone.

I: Hmm...

R: But whatever's now left, cos I haven't been back, I suspect is purely seating, of a very, much smaller dimension. I would think if they get 2 or 3 thousand that would be max.

I: And do you remember seeing any changes from the first time that you went, to years after, any changes to the ground?

R: No not really, the changes then took place later, the Pavilion being demolished and whatever else, was at a time when I wasn't going to the Cricket or and the Football ground had been demolished so, I mean that's gone, the memories really. So that's when it all changed but that's after my era.

I: Yeah...

R: Really...

I: And do you have any special memories about the Cricket?

R: Yes I do, I've got two that I remember- which I've obviously thought about. One, everybody knows Dickie Bird. He is the old Umpire, England, and he used to go round the world. As a boy he was a Yorkshire Colt, in other words he was a second team player, occasionally playing for the first team if someone wasn't available. And I saw him play against Glamorgan and he scored 180 runs in his innings, I can't remember if it was in one day... I think it would be. Anyway! Next match, dropped! Because whoever he'd been replacing for injury or whatever had come back. So in the end, Dickie- Harold Bird, Harold is his real name, Dickie left and he went to Leicestershire and had a very good career.

First team obviously, and there were 2 or 3 other Yorkshire players who went more or less at the same time to Leicester. A chap called Jackie Birkenshaw, a second guy who was a Yorkshire player and went to Leicester...I'm trying to think of his name. It'll come...Chris Balderstone, and he was a footballer as well he played for Carlisle, Huddersfield, so this was an era where Cricket was almost amateur, almost, wouldn't be paid well.

Second memory, Fred Trueman. Frederick Swards Trueman. Notorious for being grumpy, would never give an autograph, anyway I'm there at the Pavillion steps waiting and he comes in his Jag, he had a Jag even then, this would be about 1960, I'd be about 14. Anyway! I asked him for his autograph and he "er' lad, carries me' bag up t' dressin' room and I'll give ya' autograph". So I thought, so I did, what a bag he'd got! Full of.. He must have had all his sweaters, his pads for his batting, cos he could bat. Anyway, I followed him up, struggled but got there, and he signed, I'll him tha', but he didn't sign "Best wishes Chris" or some y'know gesture. He just put "F. S. Trueman" and that where it, but of course I'd got his autograph so... What I ever did with that autograph I don't know, cos obviously again it's a long time ago.

But yeah, that was my other memory, of a famous man really. And occasionally when I go to Skipton, there's a Bronze statue, which is in the area where the Canal basin is. And every time I see it " ah Fred I remember you".

I: And what was it like going into the changing rooms?

R: Well, I'd never been in before obviously, and I think there were 1 or 2 in, whether Fred liked to get there early or not I've no idea. But it was quite impressive I must say, and obviously slatted seating all round the walls obviously, and hooks and everything. You could see where the shower area was, probably, and the toilets. But I was only in like 10-15-20 seconds and I was out again, y'know, dismissed! Thanks Fred. So impressive, and I'm sure the away dressing room was just as good.

I: Hmm, yeah... Wow! And so you went to see Cricket and Football didn't you?

R: Yes

I: Do you have any Football memories?

R: Yes, I've some but not as outstanding

I: (Laughter)

R: Mainly because Bradford Park Avenue didn't play at the same level, they were of the lower league teams. Whereas of course, Yorkshire were a top County Cricket team. But I can remember going with my Father, who was the Bradford Park Avenue fan, really because he

knew some of the older players who had subsequently retired, but he knew them. So he was sort of, whenever we went to a match he would always see somebody he knew and say "that's so and so, he played 10 years ago" "Oh right..". So that would be mid '50s, so again I would be about 10 by then, but then I committed the sad...the cardinal sin of telling me' dad that I wanted to support Bradford City, and I wanted a season ticket. And o' course he bought me one. But he just said "You won't be going to Park Avenue then?" and I said " Oh yeah I'll still come with ya" because Park Avenue for some reason played mid-week on a Monday, strange, and 'ave done in modern times. Very strange t' me. Anyway "Oh yeah I'll be going dad don't worry". So I did, I still went even though, at heart now a Bradford City Fan. So I watched the 2, but obviously Bradford City were slightly better at the time, and so I got more big games, adventures, than I did at Park Avenue. All be it that, 1960 Park Avenue had floodlights erected, cos' big money, played the Czechoslovakian World Cup Team who were preparing to go to Chili for the 1962 World Cup.

In fact they got to the Final, I think. Lost. Anyway! Big match, big... I remember that vividly 20 thousand there. Massive. Great night, everybody thoroughly enjoyed it. Czechoslovakia won, which was no surprise, but only 3:2, so it were close. And I'm sure they found it good cos they were having good practice for when they then got on the plane to fly to, I think they played Scotland in a previous match at Hampden Park in Glasgow. And so we sort of joined in on that, like a week later or probably not, maybe 3 or 4 days. Cos it was a mid-week.

I: Yeah...

R: Wasn't a Saturday, so those are my 2, 1 Cricket, or 2 Cricket and 1 Football, that have stayed in my mind all these years.

I: Yeah...

R: And I can still picture both grounds in my head.

I: Yeah...

R: And if somebody asked me to sit down and describe them both, I could.

I: Hmm

R: Yeah, I could

I: Would you describe them to me?

R: Yes!

I: How you remember them?

R: The Cricket was impressive because of this Pavillion at one end and the other end, opposite was the back of the Football stands. So in other words, it was dual purpose. And whilst it didn't have a great number of Cricket seats, it did have positions where you could mainly stand and watch the Cricket and get a good view, cos you were slightly raised. So that was very impressive really, and it was big of course, the Cricket field, it was one of the big ones. The Football, because again, because it backed onto the Cricket, you could actually go to a Cricket match at say...I dunno, 3 o'clock in the afternoon and watch the last 3 hours till stumps, at usually 6 and then you could go to your Football match. So I think in essence, I think they let you in for free for the Cricket, because it was later in the game, y'know 3 or 4 o'clock, they didn't bother charging. But obviously I had to pay when I went to the Football.

But I remember that as, quite often I would do that. And autographs of course, as a boy, I think all boys try to get autographs. So I did. I tried to get photographs signed as well, I bought books, there's a famous one called the..."Charles Buchan's Soccer Gift Book" and it was published every Christmas. Aimed at people like me really, anyway I used to take the current year if any of the photographs were of current players who were playing. So I used to have that, I loved that. I've still got one.

I: Have you?!

R: Hmm, probably a dozen.

I: Wow

R: Weigh a ton

I: (Laughter)

R: So the Football ground, it was a better ground than Bradford City's and of course, in time Bradford City had the fire which decimated it. But it was a very poor ground before, whereas Park Avenue had been in a higher level up until fairly recent years. And so it was the better ground. End of. So yeah I used to enjoy, I preferred going to Park Avenue even though I was quotes "a Bradford City Fan".

I: (Laughter)

R: So yeah those are the grounds, and I can still, like I said I can still picture them and the quirks of them y'know.

I: And what was so special for you about that ground? About the Park Avenue Ground?

R: The Park Avenue? Well the Cricket one, because there wasn't another one in the city. There

were small Cricket grounds for the local teams, but they weren't anything like the size. And so it was the... And the fact that y'saw with Cricket players for...home, Yorkshire, who were away, opposition, who where test stars. So you might get 4 or 5 test stars in each team. So, and it, a game lasted 3 days. Not that I ever went for 3 days, but I might go say, on a Saturday. They never played Sunday in those days, they just didn't do it. So I would go on a Saturday for the whole day.

And I remember once going to Headingley, just as an aside, to a test match. 4th Test, about 1964 I think, and Australia batted all the Saturday and there was a player called Peter Burge, and he scored 140. I don't think he was even out. And it was magnificent, and that was Test Cricket. So I didn't go to many Test matches, but that was Headingley. But Park Avenue was equally as interesting, but slightly lower level, but not much. And so I enjoyed going. And you could get a Hot Dog, you could get a Burger, even in those days there was still the food outlets, but nothing like modern day. You might get a Burger van or an Ice Cream van then a Burger Van.

But y'know you'd be okay for the day and mum would always give me enough change so that I could buy and so she never... And of course in those days you could go where you wanted at the age of 10.

I: Yeah...

R: Never said anything, I used to go on the bus from home in Bradford to Burnley to watch Burnley, First Division. And again I would only be 12 or 13, but you could do it.

I: Yeah...

R: There was no problems

I: Yeah

R: So that's sort of my instant memories of the 2 grounds. And Park Avenue, I'm pleased to say, is still there all be it... I've been too an odd game in modern times because of course it's not the same because there's no atmosphere.

I: Hmm

R: As there was, but I'm pleased that it is still there. I'm pleased that Yorkshire Cricket haven't sort of dismissed it. Whereas they have with 1 or 2 I think. Harrogate, Hull, Sheffield I don't think they have any County. And I think Yorkshire play some games at Park Avenue, second team, second 11. Which is good.

I: Hmm

R: Keeps it going.

I: Yeah

R: Whether they will ever develop it is another story. I think they are struggling to keep Headingley at the moment because financial pressures are what they are in the modern world, Not just Cricket, Football and Rugby.

I: Yeah absolutely.

R: Hmm, so thats my...I'm still pleased like I say, that Park Avenue... I never played there of course because I wasn't that good, I played Cricket, but never...Although there was a local team that played there called Park Chapel. But I think they moved away. There's somebody plays there, League Team, but I don't know who. I've never been.

I: Hmm

R: In the modern day...hmm

I: So can you tell me a bit more about when you used to play Cricket? And did you play Football as well?

R: Yeah

I: Yeah

R: Started obviously at about 8, Football really, Cricket we didn't play at school, Football we did. So from about the age of 8 I was in a school team. So I'd play 3 years, and there would be amongst us, the team, 2 brothers Howard Cooper and Ian Cooper. Howard went on to play for Yorkshire at Cricket, Ian went on to play Football for Bradford City. And I was in the same school team for 2 or 3 years, so that was... So if ever I see Ian now, I mean we both look at each other and say "Is it you Chris?" and I'll say " Is it you Ian?".

I: (Laughter)

R: We joke, but yeah we've, we've grown old but he's still with it and he's still goes to do the entertaining at Bradford City now.

I: Yeah

R: He'll be there this season, and he'll be my age so he will be 78

I: Hmm

R: So then that moved onto school, Grammar School.

I: Hmm

R: Having passed my 11 plus, which my father could not believe, but I did! And he said “ Well if you’ve said you did, you must ‘ave done”.

I: (Laughter)

R: Anyway, I went to Carlton, which is no more now. It’s got this fancy title of Carlton Bolling, and it’s a merged school but it was on a different site. I’ve no connection with it whatsoever, it’s not my Grammar School that I went to. So I played Football right through till the age of 16, 17 and did okay, enjoyed it. Then played when I left school, cos I left at... was I 17? I’d probably be just 17 and I had a job that I’d applied for with the Midlands Bank and it was a good job and so sport didn’t upset my workin’ life, but I could still play most Saturdays.

I: Yeah

R: But Saturday mornings, we did open the bank, so of course some Saturdays I couldn’t play cos I’d be at the bank when...

I: Yeah

R: When we were playing somewhere away, I couldn’t get there. But I played right through till I was in my 30’s.

I: Wow!

R: Yeah, I’d be in my 30’s when I stopped. And I only stopped really because I was playing 5 a side Football at a local sports centre at Nab Wood, you probably know it.

I: Yeah, yeah.

R: Near Bingley

I: Yeah

R: And my right achilles tendon snapped, and I sort of fell down as you would. And I turned to someone and said “ What the heck y’do tha’ for?” and they said “do what?” I said “ you tripped me up!” he said “ I didn’t!” and he hadn’t, obviously I thought I had been tripped up, but I hadn’t. It was the achilles going bang. So that were a bit of a sickner for a while.

I:(Laughter)

R: Hospital immediately obviously, so I didn’t play then, so that would be...when would I be?

About 35, but I'd been playing Golf, so Golf had taken over a bit. But I found, for some reason I couldn't play Golf well, and I had been reasonable, because my right leg was shorter than my left, because of this achilles repair

I: Okay

R: That was done. Mine was quite remarkable in so much as a specialist surgeon called Dr Nada, N A D A, an Egyptian, and he was renowned for this technique he'd developed for achilles injuries. So he came to see me in the A&E and he said "I'm having you tomorrow" "Oh okay..." Anyway I had the same op at time and Trevor Francis the famous England and Notts Forest Footballer, ruptured his achilles tendon the same weekend. He was out for a year, I was out for 3 months. So my Dr Nada obviously was impressive.

I: Hmm, yeah

R: He was Egyptian, I was talkin' to a nurse one day [** 0:24:09] and she said "Oh Dr Nada, did you know him?" I said "Yeah a long time before" and she said "Oh all the girls loved him".

I: (Laughter)

R: But he was married, y'know, anyway he returned to Egypt.

I: Yeah

R: Sometime, so that was my claim to fame. Dr Nada.

I: (Laughter)

R: So yeah, so and I'm getting older now, and of course Football then became spectator. I: Yeah

R: Cricket, spectator. And I like Rugby, Rugby League is my passion.

I: Right.

R: So Rugby League I watch

I: Yeah.

R: More than soccer really.

I: Yeah.

R: I wouldn't think to go to a Cricket match, I could go locally.

I: Mmm.

R: To Steeton Cricket, which is a lovely little ground. You can get food and things there, but I can't remember the last time that I went. And they play in the local league, the Aire and Wharfedale League. So it's a good league.

I: Yeah

R: And they play some good teams, but I just never think to go. But if its a Football or a Rugby match that was on, oh I'll go.

I: Yeah.

R: And I'll go.

I: (Breath)

R: See pals obviously.

I: And when was the last time that you went to the old Park Avenue Ground?

R: Oh that's a very good question, I'll tell you exactly because I remember thinking about this. 1994, Yorkshire arranged to play a County match there against Surrey. 3 day match, the Pavilion had gone by then but there was terraced seating, And so I went on the first evening, so I'd left work, I was working in Bradford, and I left work about 4, I got off early and got there. I'd pay for the last sort of 3 hours but I didn't mind. So I'd to pay something like £6, which then wasnt alot really and you got a brochure-programme, which I were in me element. I got something to read about Yorkshire Cricket and a score card, so I sat there till whatever time it was 7 o'clock I think it was when they packed in playing for the day.

I: Hmm

R: And I can't remember whether they used...There were some dressing rooms that had been built under this terracing, and presumably the 2 teams used that.

I: Hmm

R: Must 'ave been okay, cos you wouldn't be saying to Surrey " Oh sorry we haven't got a bath" or "Sorry we haven't got showers". They must 'ave had facilities. But nah never saw it. So that would be my last real visit. I'm trying to think if I've been since? I might have been to an odd Cup Final that used to be held there, maybe in the 2000's, but it would be an odd one.

I: Hmm

R: So it's a distant memory really, y'talkin for me 30 years.

I: Yeah

R: Which is a long time

I: Long time..

R: Sadly

I: Yeah:

R: Cos it would have been nice if somebody had done a

redevelopment. I: Hmm

R: And then it would have got back to some level of Cricket that would be regulated.

I: Yeah

R: To have one, one off match. I think they have played Second Team Cricket for Yorkshire at Park Avenue. And in fact I have got programmes, which I've kept, that I've either bought or picked up in different places. And they went through, sort of again the 90's and maybe into the 2000's. But probably only as far as, approximately 2005.

I: Hmm

R: Which then that was it.

I: Yeah

R: The, the Yorkshire connection finished. And there's been threats of Yorkshire doing things but nothings happened

I: (Laughter)

R: So I live in hope.

I: Yeah.

I: And do you remember any other different events that happened at the Park Avenue Ground?

R: Other than my early cycling memory...

I: (Laughter)

R: No I can't think of anything that would be held at the Cricket Field...In the Football Ground they did have Pakistani wrestling, which is different to English or American wrestling. I can remember that being a sport. And I think they had a ring in the middle of the pitch and then obviously the spectators sat round the side. I remember they did that. And then they had a concert, a pop concert at Park Avenue which did not make money.

I: (Laughter)

R: You'd think now it would, but not then. And there was some reasonable acts of the day, I remember looking at a programme and there was, for example, Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick & Tich. They were top 10, Mungo Jerry- they were top 10, Mudd - they were top 10 and others. But they lost money so they never had another. So Park Avenue, the Football side, didn't help their finances...I can't remember if...

I: Did you go and see any of the concerts?

R: No I didn't go no, I'm trying to think when it was...Can't remember. Late 70's

perhaps. I: Yeah

R: The Football finished in 1974, but the ground stayed untouched for about 7 years. Maybe this pop concert was earlier.

I: Hmm

R: I can't remember. But the ground was demolished about 1980.

I: Hmm

R: And the Cricket of course had fallen into a little disrepair earlier than that, and the main Pavillion was gone. It was wood, and I suspect that was partly the reason it was demolished, because of the wood. As was Park Avenue.

I: Hmm

R: Main stand, in those days they were built of wood- with iron supports obviously

I: Yeah

R: But yeah so, so yeah the Cricket stays and is still there which is great, but the Football now is more than a distant memory, you're talkin' 40 years.

I: Yeah

R: So very sad. And Park Avenue and Bradford City, they'd play each other once a season and the Bradford City team is usually juniors and the Park Avenue team is made up of players are what you would know as part-time players, in other words they get paid match fees, but they're not on a retainer or a salary.

I: Hmm.

R: They are just on the match..

I: Yeah.

R: And if they don't play, they don't get paid.

I: Yeah.

R: So the two teams meet once a year, every July but the level is completely different now...

I: Yeah.

R: Whereas for example, Bradford City played Sunderland Tuesday evening this week, which I went too, very good. There were about 5000 there, 1000 from Sunderland and this Saturday Sunderland, because their pitch is still being worked on they are playing Marseille at Bradford City, Valley Parade. Because they wanted a pitch and ground that were reasonably near Sunderland- albeit 90 miles away. But their fans will travel. Come down to Bradford, so I'm going to that on Saturday.

I: Wow

R: Cos that will be a one off

I: Hmm

R: Never see that again I don't think.

I: No

R: Park Avenue never really had big matches when I was growing up, apart from the Czechoslovakian one I mentioned.

I: Hmm

R: They'd play Leeds United regularly, when Leeds were a top team. They'd play Huddersfield Town regularly when they were a good team. And get good crowds, get 7 or 8 thousand for those games. And they were only sort of mini cup ties, local, but yeah they still got good crowds really. But then of course they died financially.

I: Yeah.

R: And that's when they came to an end in 1974.

I: Yeah.

R: That is sad that.

I: Yeah

R: The modern team does well, but it's not the same to me

I: No...

R: And of course we are talking 50 years on. And so most of the fans have died. I: Hmm.

R: Im an old fan, and I'm old and so there is lots that have gone before me. And so when I go to games at Peckham- which I do and it's at a local athletics stadium, I don't see anybody I know. Cos there not there.

I: Hmm

R: I see some younger people I know obviously, but not my generation...

I: Yeah, yeah...

R: Cos they are not there, and that's the sad thing about Park Avenue.

I: Yeah

R: Whereas at City, Bradford City they have had generation on generation, and still going. I: Yeah.

R: So that's about all I can relay to you about Park Avenue certainly

I: Yeah.

R: But wonderful memories, I'll always have those.

I: Is there anything else you, any other memories that you'd like to share about the ground or do you think you're...

R: I'll give you one more.

I: Yeah.

R: And it's probably, it's not risqué at all really. Bradford City...Bradford Park Avenue had played Leeds United. It was about 1960 and it was in what was known then as the West Riding Senior Cup. And the local teams all played each other, Huddersfield, Halifax, Bradford, Bradford City, Leeds. Only the 5 or 6 teams. Anyway the Final was at Bradford and Bradford Peckham where playing Leeds. I think they used to arrange it so Bradford got the Finals, so they got a bit more money. Anyway we played Leeds, the games very tempestuous, there's a sending off, Billy Bremner and one of the Bradford players were sent off for fighting. And I mean Billy Bremner was 5ft 2, and one of the smallest players, but biggest hearts. Scottish, great player, no longer with us, sadly.

And Jock Buchanan, again another Scot, he's no longer with us. And they were fighting. Anyway off, both of 'em. So Billy Bremner goes off to the dressing room, Jock no..no. Jock walked round the perimeter of the pitch waving to the spectators and the Bradford spectators were lovin' it. And he did the whole of the pitch more or less. And then went into the dresssin' room. And after the game, Leeds had won, I think it was somethin' like 3:2 or 3:1. They won the cup, so they were taking the cup home t' Elland Road.

So there's the Leeds United Team coach outside the ground on the car park area, most of the spectators had gone by this time but there was still a few hanging about. Anyway the Leeds players came out and Jack Charlton was, I think he'd be Captain, anyway he had the cup, he was holding it and he was doing a bit of taunting really, anyway he was stood in the stairwell of the coach and turned to this small crowd of Bradford fans and sort of held the cup up.

Anyway, this guy picked up a big rock and threw it! And it hit the Trophy, right in the middle [clap 0:35:51] and there was obviously a dent, you could see the dent immediately. I'll always remember that...The dent. So no doubt Leeds got that fixed later but yeah so, Jack Charlton, who's real name isn't Jack at all it's John. He's Bobby Charlton's brother and he never signs an autograph "Jack Charlton" Never. He'll sign it "J Charlton" I know that, cos I've asked him numerous times and I know the story behind it. And yeah so, he shot into the back of the coach with his cup. I'll always remember that. And that was y'know, this is hooligans 60 years ago, so nothings changed. It's just that it didn't happen every week.

I: Hmm

R: It might happen once every 5 years.

I: (Laughter)

R: If y'know what I mean

I: Yeah

R: But that, yeah it was Hooliganism.

I: Mmm

R: Cos the guy meant to hurt, don't know whether he threw it at Jack or at the cup.

I: Yeahh

R: I think he aimed it at the cup. Anyway he contacted the cup, real dint in

it. I: Wow

R: And it was a big cup

I: Yeah

R: I wasn't a little piddler, it was a big cup. They'd been obviously playing for it for 100 years probably. No, No 50.

I: Yeah

R: Yeah

I: (Laughter) Aww Thank You

R: So that's Park Avenue.

I: Brilliant

R: So that's, you can't forget that. If you were there.

I: Hmm

R: You don't forget.

I: Yeah

R: And there was no maliciousness, there was no spectators fighting, there were none of that. I: No.

R: Y'know, Leeds fans went home they didn't... there was no hassle.

I: Yeah.

R: Now, I mean in Europe at the Euro's 2024 there's been all sorts going on, with...I'm trying to think what they'd call... the visitors or something. No I don't know what they're called. Anyway that's modern day. Whereas in that day in Bradford, Leeds and Huddersfield etcetera there weren't any problems.

I: Hmm

R: No

I: No

R: Hillsborough was the first one.

I: Yeah.

R: Having followed Bradford City's fire 4 years earlier, but that was almost a freak of nature amongst other things. But a number of deaths obviously. A lad who played in the school Football team with me at Marsh Field, Howard Turner, he died at the fire with his family.

I: Oh really?

R: I don't know how many, 2 or 3 children. There's a memorial to the fire at Bradford at the side of the main stand and I quite often have a look. And I always look for his name, it's in alphabetical order. Howard Turner, yeah and he was in the team with me.

I: Wow

R: I didn't know until then, I hadn't seen him forever but...

I: Yeah

R: As soon as I saw the name and somebody said "Oh yeah he was at Marsh Field" I thought "Oh I played with him".

I: Hmm.

R: And Ian Cooper said t'me "Oh I remember him". "Good player" he said. I couldn't remember.

But hey...

I: That's a shame isn't it?

R: Yeah.

I: Hmm

R: So! There you go!

I: Thank you, thank you so much for sharing that all with me.

R: It's a pleasure.