

Title: Ball, Helen_Interview_Complete
Creators: Rick & Julia Goldsmith
Project: Herefordshire Life Through A Lens
Tagline: Films, stories and exhibitions inspired by
the photographic archive of the Derek Evans Studio 1950s-80s
Subject: Autobiography, Hereford United FC, the
1972 Hereford United v Newcastle United match, Football, family,
mixed groups attending matches
Publisher: Catcher Media Social CIC
Tags: HUFC, Hereford United Football
Club, 1972, Hereford v Newcastle, Newcastle United,
Football, Football Manager, Football Player, Herefordshire,
Heritage, Derek Evans, Photography, May
Fair oral history, heritage, PV, participatory film-making,
community

Identifier: Ball, Helen_Interview_Complete
Interview Date: October_05_2018
Location: Hereford United Football Ground
Source: Catcher Media Social CIC
Interviewee: Helen Ball (speaker, male)
Interviewer: Julia Goldsmith (speaker, female)
Camera & Sound: Richard Goldsmith (male)
Producer: Julia Goldsmith
Language: English

Type: Video
Video Format: MPEG-4
Bit rate: 26.7 mbits/s
Frame rate: 25 FPS
Aspect ratio: 16:9
Width: 1920 pixels
Height: 1080 pixels
Scan type: Progressive
Audio Format: AAC
Audio Sampling rate: 48.00 kHz
Audio Bit rate: 192 kb/s
Stereo/Mono: Mono
File Size: 1.66 GB
Duration: 8 min 53 seconds

Type: Audio
Audio Format: MP3 audio
Audio Sampling rate: 44.100 kHz
Audio Bit rate: 256 kb/s
Stereo/Mono: Mono
File Size: 16.4 MB
Duration: 8 min 53 seconds

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Libraries, Herefordshire Archive and Records Centre

Description:

Helen was involved as a project volunteer but importantly had attended the famous match at the tender age of 21. She describes the mood of the day - the way the players all drank in a local pub - and how much of a mixed crowd were at the game. She stresses that the game really 'put Hereford on the map'.

Outline (a brief synopsis of the person and their connection to the topic 3-4 lines)
Helen Ball was a 21-year-old young woman when Hereford United famously played and beat Newcastle in the FA cup re-match on the 5th February 1972, she describes what the day was like for her.

Mins:

0.00

Helen was 21 years old and one of the massive crowds who had come to watch Hereford United play Newcastle in the replay of the FA cup match. The crowd was a mixed bunch of all ages, she was stood at the front and describes how the ground was packed to capacity there were even people sitting on roofs and up trees to get a view. When asked what the town was like on the day, she explains how the town was empty some of the shops had shut and people were either watching the match or at home listening to it on the radio.

She saw the famous goal when the crowd erupted and everyone went crazy, the noise and the shouting was unbelievable, she didn't run on to the pitch but lots of people did. There was lots of chanting and singing with Malcolm McDonald being the main target of the mickey taking.

Helen explains how she attended all home matches standing at the meadow end with her Dad and Brother when asked if it was out of the ordinary for girls to attend she said no the crowd was a mixture and all ages. She goes on to explain about her great Aunt Ella Grundy who was also at the match and had attended for many years selling tickets and pies, she was known by everyone at the club all the players knew her and when in later life she had to go into a nursing home how Colin Addison would pick her up and take her to the matches. When she died Peter Issacs telephoned the family to say the club wanted to be involved, they ended up taking over the funeral with players carrying the coffin.

4.00

When the final whistle blew the crowd erupted into absolute chaos, everyone was shouting and hugging each other, and people were running on the pitch. In the evening the pubs were full with some of the players joining the crowds for a drink. Helen explains how she knew one or two of the players they were all part-time players some worked locally, Helen worked for the same company as Roger Griffiths. She would often see players in the Oxford Arms which is one of the local pubs to the ground playing cards and enjoying an evening out.

The 1972 match left a legacy in the City because it put Hereford on the map, many people hadn't heard of Hereford before and possibly the name was only associated with the Hereford Bull.

A Hereford bull was traditionally paraded around the pitch before a match and Helen remembers the bull walking around the perimeter of the pitch prior to this game she isn't sure of why the tradition started but people just liked to see it.

7.00

Asked what it meant to her Helen said as a fan it was unbelievable, it was a lovely feeling to make the grade and to realise the dream. She had attended the previous match in Newcastle having travelled up on the train, but she doesn't remember so much about that match.

All her family were involved and it was always something that was talked about, it was natural to join in and being a girl didn't exclude her from this although she didn't usually wear the united black and white maybe just a black coat and a white coat.