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Interviewer: Julia Goldsmith (speaker, female)
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Summary: Abstract: Ronnie Radford is ex-Hereford Utd player famous for his stunning goal at the now-famous 1972 FA Cup round at Edgar Street vs First Leaguers Newcastle Utd. The goal and the match has gone down in not just local history but national history too. Ronnie's goal is still counted among the best ever in footballing round-ups.

Transcript:

0.00

JG: Ronnie, can we just start off by telling me who you are?

RR: Yes, I came to Hereford, Ron Radford, came to Hereford from Newport County, that were in 1971, and I started there under John Charles, John Charles was the manager at the time, Frank Miles the Chairman, and Hereford were a really well-known non-league team. And they were a team that and they had the crowd and if you played in the Southern League, Hereford was one of the games that you looked forward to because of the atmosphere and they always had good players and Although I came out of League football back into part-time football, mainly it was because I couldn't afford to play sport full-time. I'd gave up my joiner shop and we just couldn't survive on wages that we were getting, so.... It were quite a relief to get back to part-time, being full-time, because I was travelling every day to Newport and coming back and it's pretty tiring so.... And then in the closed season Hereford came along and John Charles came and Mike McLaughlin who were the captain, who I played for Newport, and he said, 'I understand that you're going part-time, you're able, you know, to look for other clubs'. And I said, yeah, at the moment I'm just waiting now and seeing who comes along. He said, 'well, that's why we're here today. Frank Miles the Chairman has said that it would be great if we could get Ronnie and play here'. And that's how it came about and I started at Hereford. Little did I know then what were going to be in store for us in the years that I was there.

I was born in a little mining village, South Emsell (sp??) it's near Pontefract in West Yorkshire. It was probably one of the best times of my life because in those days, you know, we had to

make us own fun. And everybody knew each other. Yeah and my local football team was Frickley (sp??) Colliery. And I used to, as a young boy, go and watch their games every Saturday. I was stood there after the match with me autograph book. You know, I had dreams then of, my dream then was to play on the actual pitch at Frickley Colliery. Because I loved football and any sport from an early age. And really I couldn't have had it any better really because all my friends, you know, they were all in the same mould andYeah, it were a great childhood and as we got older I remember on a Sunday morning, I was about nine years old and living in an estate they used to have a football field, it were right in the middle of the estate, and on a Sunday morning all the local lads, 18, 19-year-olds, used to turn up on a cold morning or a hot morning in the summer, and anybody who come got a game. I was always the last one to be picked because I was the smallest, a nine-year-old playing. And little did I know that really that were the start of my football career because it were a great start in as much because I were playing with older people, I were playing with people who were playing at football every week. So I were used to playing with older lads so it wasn't a problem for me as I got older to adapt. They were priceless days them were.

JG: So how did you start out on your career?

RR: Yeah, my career, I was captain of our school football team and we played a final.../

5.00

RR: .../at Frickley Colliery, that was my first dream come true, and then I started to play for a youth club. We went to, Annie and I, we went to the same youth club, that's where we met and it was during that time that there was another football team in a higher league, a men's league, it was a Yorkshire League, what they used to call it. And I played for South Kirby Colliery. I'd only played about five or six games and one day the manager came and he said, oh he said, 'there's been a scout watching you for a while. He said he wants a word with you'. I said well, 'yeah, yeah, fantastic'. So I spoke to the guy and he were Sheffield Wednesday scout and he said, 'how do you feel about going for a trial at Sheffield Wednesday?' I said, oh yeah! (laughing) I said yeah, that will be fine. And funny enough, there were two of our lads who played in the same team. One of them actually got the same thing. He got offered, he were a little bit older than me, so he were playing in A team at Sheffield and I were playing with the junior team, which is equivalent to today's youth team, up to 18. And I went for a trial, I were an apprentice joiner by trade at Doncaster Plant Works and still had these dreams of being a footballer. Any road, I went for this trial and they said yeah, yeah, we'd like you to sign amateur forms. That's when my other dreams started to come true. We as a junior team played on another pitch, like they do today. We used to play our games on a morning, Saturday morning, and in

the afternoon, if the first team were playing at home, they invited us to go and watch the game. And I kept thinking, you know, I wonder if I'll ever go and play on the big pitch like. Any road, I did well that year and I was ever present. I were playing with all the ground staff professionals like, think there were only one or two or three amateurs in the team, and I got retained for the following season. And that's where, when all the amazing things started to come to fruit. In the youth cup we got to the quarter finals in the youth cup and we played Everton. And I remember the first game at Hillsborough, it were a night game, it were a full light game, and we went out onto the pitch and I thought, 'oh, this is fantastic!' Day light, you know. Any road, we were warming up, practising you know, before the start of the game and five minutes before the game started, they put the other two lights on and it was just an amazing feeling, from the ground up everywhere, and you're looking at the stands and it's just quite an unbelievable experience. That was the first time I'd ever played in such a situation really. I could never have dreamed of that but I did and it was a dream come true. Being a lad from South Emsell I never imagined I would be doing anything that other people did. We were successful that year and at the end of the season they arranged a pre-season tournament in Germany and I was asked to go. And when I got to know that I were picked and they said 'oh, we'll be flying over there', I just thought, flying! I were 16, 17-years-of-age and the farthest that I'd been were Blackpool or Cleethorpes or wherever, and here I am, you know, sitting.../

10.00

RR: .../sitting, when we got to airport, and I'm sitting in the airport and I just couldn't take it all in. That was an amazing feeling. We actually won the tournament. I played another two years at Sheffield Wednesday and then Sheffield Wednesday's manager moved to Everton and the assistant manager, Morris Lindley, he went to Leeds, Leeds were in the second division at that time, and he got in touch with me and he said, 'are you still interested in signing professional like?' and I said, 'yes, I'd like to obviously.' 'Cause he said, 'if you want, Mr Revie, that were Don Revie, would like to have a chat with you like'. And I said I'll speak to my parents first but, yeah, we'll arrange a date for you to come. Any road, we did and my mum and dad said, right, you've got three years behind you with your woodworking and they said, 'we'll leave it up to you.' And I said I would love to give it a go. I would always regret not accepting it like. I did. And I stayed there for a year and I didn't make the first team, I made the reserves but it were obvious that I weren't going to be, in their opinion, be good enough to play at a higher level, which is really why I came to be playing part-time, because during the close season I had a call from Cheltenham Town in the Southern League which is equivalent really to the non-league national league today. They used to have very good attendances, Hereford were part of them

of course. And the Southern League were a great standard it toured all ex-league players in it. So I went down had a look at the place. I got off the train at Cheltenham and he met me in a taxi and he said I'll just drive around Cheltenham. Don't forget I come from a little mining village. And he took me down the Promenade and through all the walks and the gardens, and I said 'yes, I'll sign'. And I did sign and we spoke about it before, me and Annie. And when I did decide to go down me and Annie were engaged at that time and we said we don't want to be living apart, shall we get married and then you come down with me. And that's what we did. And I had four or five good seasons at Cheltenham and then the reasons I left Cheltenham it was because that year we played Watford in FA Cup, think it was the second round that we'd got, we had a home game. And in our contracts it said if we got to the first-round proper we would get at the end of the season a bonus for it. Come end of season we're waiting for the retain list to go up and all we got every one of us was a letter to say that unfortunately the club couldn't afford to pay for the bonuses and we had to forfeit it like you know, which meant every one of us was on a free transfer. So they left it open that they had broken their contract. And I thought, great, fair enough because I had been voted player of the year, had a good season so I had no reason not to think that they would sign me again. And within a few days of knowing that a scout came from Newport County, they were I the fourth division then, and he said would you be prepared to go and have a chat with Bobby Ferguson, the manager at Newport, eventually he went to Ipswich to play for Bobbie Robson, their chief coach he was. And I had a bit of a trial with them and he said yeah we would like you to sign.../

15.00

RR: .../ so I said I would go home and speak to my wife. Means a big cut in wages because we were earning two wages: one playing football, which weren't very much, but my contract at Cheltenham were £12 in the first team and £6 in the second team. So I said yeah, we'll give it a go. I had a good season, first season, enjoyed playing league football, it was a step up. Again, reliving the dream in the league. And then the second year we were really living on our savings and it was apparent half way through that we couldn't sustain ourselves. We'd bought a house and had a mortgage and that and I said to them mid-season that I'm afraid at the end of the season I'm going to have to go back to what I was doing before 'cause we really miss the other wage. And then they said, look, we'll give you a rise, and it were about £5. I think I were on £25, that were full-time wage. And I had dropped quite a bit in wages like and I said no. I said the travelling is getting too much. Every day it were Cheltenham to Newport, quite a journey then because they didn't have the bridge and I was getting really tired and I said I've got to stop this. And that's what happened at the end of the season. I said right, I'd like to terminate my contract. They offered me a

new deal for an extra £5 which was no way near what I could afford to live on. And that's how I came to be available. I didn't know until years later, and this is years later, that Hereford had had to pay Newport a fee for me because I wasn't technically....my contract went to something like July and they came to me sort of beginning of July something like that. And I didn't know that a deal had been done and I thought I were a free agent. At one point I said to Annie when we weren't getting any offers in, you know, maybe I'll have to look for something else. Any road, John Charles come. He came that day with Mike McLaughlin, he knocked on the door and I opened the door, and there's big Charles, massive guy. Absolutely tremendous guy he was, really. One of my idols when I was a young player. And he said, 'oh, how're you doing Ronnie?' And suddenly Annie appeared behind me and I said come in, like, come in. and Annie said, bless her heart, sense of humour, 'you're that big bloke who used to kick our players up in the air?' and he said, 'what did she say? Don't you realise I've come to try and sign Ronnie?' of course he had a laugh and a joke with it, that's what she was like,. And that's how it started. The first game I played were a game against Shrewsbury and it were a friendly, first game of't season, it's 1971and I remember Charlo. One of the problems he had he wasn't a proper coach. He was more of a front man than anything. And he were playing that day, still as player/manager. We were in the player dressing room half an hour before and about 20 minutes before the game started, no sign of Charlo, this was the usual thing. Any road, he came in, quickly got changed.../

20.00

RR: .../five to three we were going out and nobody knew what positions they were going to play. And we walked out onto the pitch and we had a little bit of a warm-up and I said to John, 'John,' I said, 'where do you want me to play?' And he said, 'oh, you're a mid-field player aren't you?' And I said 'Well, yeah.' 'Well, just play mid-field.' He didn't say right side, left side, centre. So I said ok and I went off into the centre. Kicks the ball off, we had kick off, he rolls the ball back to me, and this centre forward of theirs was a real hard case, he came steaming through, I tore some ligaments in my knee. Within fifteen seconds I were off the pitch, I had that for my debut for Hereford Utd like. I think I were off for about four weeks or something like that before I actually got my first game like. Oh yeah, it was a tremendous time, and the rest for me is history. I could never have dreamed what lay ahead. We went to Roker Park, which was then Sunderland's ground, and they were First Division team, and that were another wonderful experience. Here I am playing Roker Park, you know, Sunderland, against Sunderland and I've got all my scrapbooks with all their players and the famous Roker Park signs on the stadium. And again, another wonderful moment for me. Because I kept thinking, like

it's been at Hereford, what's going to happen next, what's gonna come along next. I don't know, I've been blessed with something. It's just been a wonderful, wonderful time for me, football career.

JG: So tell me about the build-up to this famous game.

RR: we'd played Cheltenham in the first round and we had a comfortable win for three nil and I think the crowd were about six or seven thousand then. And then we played Kings Lyn and we were drawn away. It were a tough place to go Kings Lyn. We expected a tough game and it got to right to the end and we thought we'd lost it because their centre forward he got up and he got up, a great header in and somehow Fred Potter just pushed it round the post. Then the referee blew the whistle, which meant we had a replay. And of course the replay then was at Edgar Street and we then started having bigger crowds. And we won that one-nil. Tough game. And then we knew that we were going to play Northampton and they were obviously a League team. By that time Colin had come, Colin Addison,. He was=s then a first division player, playing Hereford Utd. And Colin came with great coaching abilities. He sort of started gelling the team. The players were already there he just wanted somebody to organise them and Colin was just the man for it because such an imposing guy, player on the pitch, very vocal. You just felt that you and to lift your game to try and match his. And that's really when it all started. We'd played Northampton ad it were a nil-nil draw, again a good crowd, the crowds were starting to creep up. We went to Northampton and we drew two-two, and extra time and still, you know. Which meant there were a third game and that were at West Brom. We played at West Brom and I think most.../

25.00

RR: .../I think that were a crowd of seven or eight thousand. I think six thousand of then were Hereford Supporters and the noise they made that night was incredible like. And Northampton actually scored early on but you know we kept playing away. Started to do everything eventually but score. It got to the very last minute of the game, and Ken Mallender bless him, our left back, and he managed to score a late goal for us which again took us into extra time. And then Ted Dudley, who was the most exciting player in our team, he was a guy you wanted to get ball off all the time. Tremendous skill, great pace. He was such a good player to have in your team. He just in on the end of a late winner. And believe it or not, then we already knew that the winner would be playing Newcastle at Newcastle, so a great incentive. And of course that meant that the euphoria around Hereford I should imagine, was expectations. It's what the FA Cup is all about. Yes, we got through to the next round and the next round we knew we were going to play Newcastle, which everyone was looking forward to very much. I can imagine what it

was like for Hereford supporters it was a once in a lifetime sort of opportunity. And we were under no pressure really because we'd got jobs, we didn't have any worries really, we all had us own living to make, which being part-time helped really because it can be a lonely time being a professional because you do have a lot of time to think about things. Any road we went to Newcastle and we stayed at Gosford Park and, lovely hotel, and unfortunately the game got cancelled because the pitch wasn't ready for it and they'd had a lot of rainfall up there. and a lot of our fans had travelled up and any road, it got rearranged and so we had to go through it all again. We got there. the Geordies were absolutely fantastic outside the ground when we got off the bus. There were all sorts of rounders, congratulating us that we had got that far, which is unbelievable for the away supporters. And we were absolutely high for it. We had this self-belief that we'd started to grow into. Didn't fear anybody because we felt so organised and getting this far were great. Any road we kick off and there's a lot of crowd that still hadn't got in the ground and within 15, 16 seconds Brian Owen, god bless him, eh was on the corner of the 18-yard box and we kicked off and he got this ball and I was running round the back of him saying, hold it, hold it, hold it. And Brian being Brian and a striker hit this ball and honestly. My goal keeps getting repeated but his unfortunately wasn't caught on camera but it flew straight across the goalkeeper and it stuck in the top of the net. And the ground went silent for a few seconds and then all of a sudden our lot.../

30.00

RR: .../all started up. As I said there were still some coming into the ground. A lot of them, a lot of people hadn't seen that. And the game went backwards and forwards, forwards and back. Newcastle scored again, they got the equaliser and then they got a little bit of a dubious penalty, which Malcom MacDonald scored, that were 2-1. But we came straight back and Colin hit a lovely sweet goal and 2-2. Went in at half-time 2-2. Colin's there saying look we've got a great chance here. Keep dousing what we're doing and we've got a result here. And sure enough we did and carried on. And don't forget, a lot of people think that the mud was a great leveller at Edgar Street, but we were playing on a good surface, a first division surface and we played just as well as they did, because we had seven ex-league players playing in our team. And it's about ten minutes from the end and Billy Meadows and a great header and Ian McFall made a great save, which could have made it a third and we could have won that game. Any road the whistle went, anywhere, he we are, we've got them back at Edgar Street. The famous Edgar Street pitch, you know the slope. How're these going to cope on our slope like. Yeah, it set it up, it set everything up expectations. Having gone and played well there. I remember Frank Miles saying once, you know, they were in the director's room afterwards, and the Chief Constable, he came into the

boardroom and he said, 'do you know Frank, he said, at Newcastle, he says, you wouldn't have known today who were the first division team. He said your team played exceptionally well didn't they. And he said, yeah, that's what we're trying to build like. Any road, going back to Edgar street, as you know it got cancelled, two or three times and unfortunately for Newcastle they stayed in Worcester and for them it must have been really sort of depressing really, because it were winter, there were no facilities like bath for training or 'aut like that. And they must have been getting sort of anxious, you know the pitch was heavy. Anyway, when it came to the day and they said, the game's on and that's when the dreams start to materialise. The crowd unbelievable, the atmosphere, the energy. The things people would probably never experience in a lifetime. You know a little club got a big club with a great chance of causing an upset. I honestly believed that after we played so well at Newcastle. We'd had nothing to worry about as I said we were at work right to the day we'd played the game. I remember we walked from the Green Dragon to the Ground and you could feel the vibes, you could feel what was waiting for ya. That were amazing as well. And the game itself, well it were made for television, it were made for television the game, and especially it turned out the result what it turned out. And of course that's when we were introduced to Motty, John Motson. He's been what we call our thirteenth man ever since because he loved the place. To this day he's part of it like. He's part of the family.

35.00

JG: You know you said you walked from the Green Dragon to the ground, were people lining the streets?

RR: Empty! (laughing) It was funny really because I suppose for Hereford people like, Saturday is sort of a busy day, in't it? And we got there and there were people shouting and saying, good luck guys and as we were getting nearer and nearer to ground you could hear the crowd and they were already singing and that was absolutely amazing and. Everyone were sort of in their own thoughts going t' ground and when we got to ground it got some getting in but we did. But yeah, it were an amazing time. It couldn't have been a better build up for us.

JG: What songs were they singing?

RR: Oh, 'Hereford Utd, we all love you, we'll always support you' (singing). Great, yeah. Such a noise as well. I don't know how they got all people in really. But, yeah, amazing crowd and.... that's been the strength of Hereford Football Club was the fact they've always had this wonderful support. You know, Hereford love their football clubs and they've shown it by the way they've attended, attendances this year and the last three years, the new club and the support is still there. I think they

are used to having a little bit of success. It's had a huge impact on our lives as well.

JG: So, tell us about walking out on that pitch then?

RR: Walking out I think everyone of us had a smile on us face believe it or not. Obviously just recently having played at Newcastle and virtually the same team, just, we were so fired up. Colin's team talk that day were, Malcolm MacDonald had said in a paper interview that 'I might score the most goals that's ever been scored in a cup game'. He were like that Malcolm. You know off the cuff I think he were a nice guy like but he were building the hype up I think 'I'm going to score ten'. Well Colin got this article out of the paper and put it on the wall and said, 'there's the motivation guys'. And that were it, you know. We all knew what we got to do with it being so close to a replay. We knew how we got to play, we knew how to play on our pitch, and we knew it were going to be hard for them. We honestly were full of confidence that day. So, we were well prepared.

JG: So, tell us a little bit about the match. What happened?

RR: The match started off, unfortunately it started off badly for Roger, Roger Griffiths because in the very first two minutes Newcastle had a run in our goal mouth and a loose ball and Malcolm MacDonald, Fred Potter and Griff all met at the same time. Griff went over the top and Roger Griffiths being Roger Griffiths he was possibly one of the fittest guys in the club. He just shook it off. You see when you look at the footage how when he stood up he was limping. He played for 82 minutes like that. And that is the epitome really of what the team were. You know, they give their all. Nobody knew until he came off that he'd actually fractured his leg and played for 82 minutes. It was end to end stuff. It were just so equal. Newcastle could have been two up in the first quarter of an hour. And it's a famous saying, if you don't take your chances you've got to bear the consequences, and it turned out it did. And second half we were kicking downhill and I think it's fair to say that we had most of the game.../

40.00

RR: /they had a couple of chances where they could have turned it round but....and so did we. Ken Mallender hit the post. Dudley, Dudley again, he ran Frank Clark ragged that day, and this is a guy who's been playing league football for.... I think they had seven internationals or eight internationals in their team, and I think we matched them one-for-one and they could see that we were never going to give in. they'd already had one game against us like that and kicking downhill the second half of the extra time. You know, when it came, the goal that levelled it, I think it were 86 minutes, when they scored their goal, if you

watch the game you can see the relief on their faces. Because Motty (John Motson) said in his commentary, 'that's it!' He just says, 'that's it!' You know meaning, five minutes to go, that's it. And there was a big pause in his commentary and then he carries on again. It's just the word he says, that's it. And that's probably how the ground and the crowd felt at that moment in time. But as we know, it didn't happen. When people ask me about the goal I just say is all I did was, I just saw what were in front of me, which were Brian Owen, I played a little 1-2 with him and all I were left with was having a crack at goal. I didn't intend it to go where it went. All I had in my head was this square post that I wanted to try and keep it that low. It all happened in seconds. It's just one of these things. It just popped up as I got to it, just made it like hitting a volley ball, and it just flew. It must have been half way there because I were off. I knew that the goalkeeper weren't going to get it, and I was off, I were already doing my run! And then this magical thing about the crowd. I watch it to this day. The kids are running on t'pitch. And the people in the last 46 years, every time I see somebody they'll say, 'if you look at this part of the film, this is me,' or 'this is where my uncle was standing' or 'this is where my dad and my grandad was standing'. And they all remember it as it was yesterday. Of course, we get extra time. Ricky bless him. Worst thing you can have in football is being substitute you know on a big day like this. He'd been substitute through all the Cup games and it were fitting that this lad come on and scored the winner. And we were all delighted for him bless him. Because it was his moment and sitting on that bench all that time and he thought he only had eight minutes to do something and he certainly did. It couldn't have happened to a guy who deserved to be on pitch. He came on and he had his moment, like I did. The times that we've had together since with Motty, the things that we've been involved in, all came from that day, that run, and that season really. And as we know looking back, Hereford went from strength to strength and eventually got into League Division Two, didn't they? So, yeah, it were a wonderful day and a wonderful start to another part of Hereford's history. Yeah, when Ricky scored his goal all the kids came back on the field and... /

45.00

RR: even the (??) were running on the field and you know they did an amazing job really. You know in them days it was accepted that you could on on the pitch. But it didn't need that much police but we've spoken to some of the police since that day and you can see some of them jumping up and down as they're running onto the field like. But Motty summed it up when he said it was a great, great thing that probably would never happen again. The crowds were absolutely beautiful and the kids, so being kids, were amazing. And we still look today at some of the faces and try to look at somebody different. They made it, didn't they?

JG: So what happened when the final whistle blew?

RR: Well I actually were near the changing room. I'm only recalling what I'm seeing on the film. I think Dudley and Tony Gough were the last to come off because they were right in the far corner when the whistle blew and they just got mobbed like. And as I said, I were near the dressing rooms. That were end of game and off I went. Yeah, it were good to see it on telly afterwards though, kids and them all standing in front of the stands. Yeah, amazing, amazing.

JG: So what was the atmosphere like in the dressing room?

RR: The dressing room was just crazy really. Yeah we were all singing and dancing and like you seem some of them today, and jokes and everything. And then the chairman came in. He'd put so much into the club that Frank Miles, trying so desperately hard to get us into the Football League. We were really really pleased for him because he was the one that really got everyone together, Frank. Very ambitious. And eventually, as you know, getting the league that year. And I think the Cup run helped us enormously to help his cause and that were great when it happened. It changed football really. It changed the way people view, clubs view promotion and relegation. Usually the non-League club missed out and they'd re-elect the those that were in. and Frank's dream was a little bit nearer and god bless him.

JG: So did you all go out and celebrate?

RR: Well what we did, we and the wives had a little room to ourselves. It had been a long day for football wives. I mean we used to set off from Cheltenham for a home game maybe ten o'clock in the morning. And the game was finished and we got out of the, you know, we got ready and changed and it would probably be half past five and I used to stand and sign autographs and whatever, but at the time the social club were on the other side of the thing and a lot of the lads used to go across. But it were a long day for me wife and kids. Wherever I played, they always came first, so we went quite early away from the ground. Took us a while to get t'car. But we got there. On the way back we called, got some fish and chips and some friends of ours rang us up and the phone never stopped ringing that night but one phone call when we got back in house was our best friends said, you know, can we come up and watch it on the telly and we said yeah. And that was amazing because I'd never seen myself on a camera or film and we were all saying things, like, 'oh look at that'. It's like when you first hear yourself talk and you've got a Yorkshire accent and you think, do I talk like that? And I remember thinking, do I run like that? Is that how I look?.../

50.00

RR:/Great experience because never seen it before. Of course

it made Match of the Day. You know we had about 20, 25 minutes of sitting there and going through it all. Never forget that, never.

JG: At what moment did you realise that goal would be so historic?

RR: I didn't. I honestly didn't. it was just another goal in another cup game and in them days you used to think about the next match and that's honestly how I felt. I could not have thought what happened after that is what did happen. You know you see goals like that every week from different games. It just happened that at the time the FA Cup were going through a little bit of a rough period. it was the first time they ever made a non-league club the main match. It was a great opportunity for people to realise, to have a feel what the FA Cup is. They couldn't have set it up better; the hysteria, the massive crowd there, the shots they got w'camera, all sat in trees. I'm sure people who don't know, you know, watch football, saw a different type of thing that were on, that went right into the core of what the supporters were like. That they go to the lengths of standing in trees. I think the television caught the atmosphere and I think that set the ball rolling for the BBC to think, 'aye, aye, we could make this happen year'. And I think that's how it come about that they started to televise non-league teams in the FA Cup more. And today we see, right from day one, they're filming it and, yeah, it were the start of that period that we were part of. I think the legacy from Hereford is we know after that game that first division clubs and the higher clubs didn't like playing the FA Cup such a low team. It still happened today. and that really proved that - it had been done before. Years and years ago Yeovil had done it and Bedford had done it a giant killing thing. This television really opened it up. I think we just started everything up really. It gave them belief that season that there were a great chance that we would get promotion. And I think the fact that Hereford were well supported it gave them the chance to expand. It certainly has gone down in Hereford's history for those that were there. Hereford has its own history and the football club has their part in the history of the Hereford people. People then around the world, when people say Hereford they know they've been famous once. I can remember I were talking to a guy, a business man, he went to Japan on business and he met this guy who he were going to do a deal with and he asked him where he come from, and he said Hereford. And he said, 'hi, Hereford. Giant killers!' He said, 'Ronnie Radford!' To this day, I haven't seen him since but that is actually true. It went world-wide.../

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RR:/Hereford were suddenly on the map. A lot of people didn't know where Hereford was. And I think that sort of helped Hereford to become a more well-known....I think it did in my

opinion any road. It did a lot for Hereford to be recognised. A place of prominence really and part of history that were hidden before, in sport and that.

JG: And what about you and Annie and your family. What's been the personal legacy?

RR: Ah, the personal legacy, all I can say it's incredible. The things that me and Annie have done. The people of Hereford, every time we come down it's like coming home. They welcome us with such love and such passion. We meet new people every time, we meet people we've known from day one. I've worked on sites where they've never known until somebody one day has said something. But our legacy is the fact that we keep coming back year after year after year, 46 years later and we're still something that is so deep and entrenched here. Annie and I will be going home tomorrow and we'll be thinking, 'what can happen next?' and the things that we've been involved in is amazing. From one second from that one game. You know, it's just for the club personally, for my family. It's just been an amazing experience and it's been an amazing journey. At first we found it difficult to separate us selves from me, Ron Radford, to being Hereford Utd to being asked to represent Hereford Utd on many wonderful occasions and ...I'll tell you the things that me and Annie's experienced, it's just absolutely unbelievable. Very emotional, very emotional time when we come to Hereford for both of us. we always go back feeling on a high. That's how we are. We're on a high when we come down here, we're on a high when we go bac home, and we share it without family. I just look at it that I have been able to take my two grandchildren to Wembley, which I never ever dreamed of. They came with me to Wembley to experience what I've experienced and my sons have been down and we've been to John Motson's 'This is your life', we've picked the famous balls out of the glass jar. It goes on and on and on. Nobody could have dreamed of that, could they? Nobody. But the main thing is, and the most important thing is the people that we've met along the journey.../

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RR:/That to me and Annie is the most important thing. Not the goal, not what we've done, but from the wonderful friendships we've got from that particular thing happening to us. and that really is deeply entrenched in our hearts, because it's part of our life, a big part of our life and we want to hang onto that. It's something we treasure.

JG: Can you just tell us a little bit about the recent time Hereford went to Wembley? You said something about experiencing it from the fans' side.

RR: What an experience that was. We'd been to Wembley the day before and we'd presented the Giant Killers cup and booked a

hotel to stay overnight for Hereford's game on Sunday. And we could see the ground from where we were staying in our hotel and we got a taxi and we drove up and got as far as Wembley way and they couldn't get any further and we got out. And when we got out of the car we looked up at the stadium and all we could see was this mass of Hereford shirts, just going right round what we could see of the gallery upstairs at Wembley. And as we got nearer we heard the sound and the nearer it got the louder it got and we went up these steps and started making our way to where we were going, as we were sitting with the crowd, we wanted to experience that. And as we were going along someone said, 'oh, I think that's Ronnie Radford there'. it's funny really because we were there standing for the next 20 minutes meeting Hereford people and autographs and that and then when we got into the ground, we, Joyce and Melvin Powell, Hereford supporters and their families, right in the middle of everybody. It were that moment that we sensed what it were like being part of the crowd. Because we had only seen it from a player's point of view. But the atmosphere was unbelievable. All one end were covered with white shirts, 20,000 people, five or six thousand more than what we had. It were an amazing experience and I said to Annie, I says, 'this must have been what it were like on that day that we played and that game that we played. And we were so wrapped up on it. I remember the first goal that went in, Hereford scored early on after two or three minutes. I think me and several others went down three or four steps with us hands in the air and shouting and jumping. And what a wonderful moment and there we were experiencing it from a fan's point of view rather than a player's point of view. Unfortunately, they did not get the result that they wished for. The fans were disappointed but I'm sure they will never forget their day at Wembley. I would never forget that like I don't forget our time. But that for me, and Annie especially, it were great. It was such a marvellous, marvellous experience knowing what it were like to be a fan, a true fan, and being wrapped up in it and being part of it.

We keep in touch with each other, either by phone or by Christmas cards. Every year we send everybody, all the players and the wives and the families Christmas cards, exchange them. Through the year we keep in touch by phone, we talk, and the reunions we've had have always been marvellous nights because everybody's been there with the wives and it was as though....they were a team on their own the wives because they all got on and were all excited just as we were.../

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RR: .../always a lot of emotion seeing each other. Fortunately this weekend we might experience that again. That will be lovely that. Yeah, I love them. And catch up on old times. After us getting into the league, I think I were about 29, and we played the next year in the football league and then I stayed another

year and played the then third division. But at that time they were all going full-time and the year before they'd decided to go full-time club. Which I didn't want again for obvious reasons. So I elected to stay part-time. But luckily for me they must have thought I had something to contribute because I did hold my spot down in the first team and played or another two years. But at the end of the second year we were in the league and I were playing in the third division, I got a little bit of an Achilles tendon injury and that slowed me down a bit and they said to me they wanted them all to be full-time now, 'we're offering you a chance to come full-time again, but we understand what your circumstances are' and I were doing well in the business. And so I said to them, right, fine. And towards the end of that season, I think it were about two months before and Worcester City made me an offer to go as their full-time manager and coach. I'd taken some coaching, I'd got my badge on coaching football, the first part of it. And I thought, yeah, that really does sound good. Having a go at that, I'd love coaching, I'd like to pass on what I've learnt to other people. What I didn't realise was the politics involved and the other side of football that managers experience and have to overcome. And we started off well. I went there, we started off well. I think we were second in the league and we'd got two or three months into the game and I was left with a situation, which for me, player/manager was unacceptable what the club proposed to do. I realised then that being a manager wasn't for me. If that was part of the role I was going to carry on being. I was quite comfortable with the coaching and enjoying that. But having seen what circumstances managers are put in and have to make decisions I just thought that on principal that's not who I am. And so that's when I said to them, I'm sorry, I'm going to have to hand in my resignation. I realise that football management isn't going to be for me. They asked me to keep my reasons private, which I did, I never told anybody about what happened and then I just got an offer from Bath City and it were the best contract I'd ever had, with Bath City. And I was still struggling with my Achilles tendon and I play about seven, eight, nine games and I tore a hamstring. I were 32 then and I thought, this is the time to retire plus I couldn't afford to take the time off because I was self-employed, self-employed as a joiner. And I think we're all on a road in our life and things happen to change that road, and I thought it was time for me to say right. What you've had in football is enough to last me a life time and this were the time to go down another route and then just concentrate what I were doing for a living. And Annie was fully behind us as she always has been. And that's how I come to finish playing.