

**Transcription of the Interview of Brian Burrows by Belinda Monkhouse  
in the  
Oak Room, Liverpool Central Library, on 19 May 2010  
(10 minutes 37 seconds)**

Q: Please can you tell me your name?

I: Brian Burrows and I'm 63 years old.

Q: And where do you live?

I: I live in St Helens. I've lived there most of my life, except when I went to University in Scotland.

Q: The World Cup in 1966, did you attend any matches?

I: I did, because it was... the North West they had matches at United – Old Trafford, Goodison Park and I went to two matches at Goodison Park. They had the group stage, which had the best teams around here, Brazil, Portugal...Brazil were the Cup winners, previous World Cup and Portugal were the hot favourites to win this one. So world star players, Eusébio for Portugal, Pelé for Brazil, so it was a chance to see some really cracking matches, err, went to Brazil versus Portugal and Portugal versus North Korea.

Q: And they were both at Goodison?

I: Both at Goodison, yes.

Q: How much did it cost?

I: It cost in the old money seven shillings and six pence, which is thirty seven and a half p in today's money. Seven and six was about three pints of bitter, so you're talking I suppose seven pound fifty, eight pound, nine pound. It was only...to go to the match in those days, that was the ground not the stands, in those days it was five shillings or twenty five p to go to a normal match, so they only increased it by two and six pence or twelve and a half p for the World Cup.

Q: Did that make you want to go more....

I: Yep

Q: ...the fact that it was quite inexpensive?

I: It was yeah. I only went to two because I had exams and so on to go back to in Scotland. So I had to leave the North West and then come back again by which time....Goodison should have had the Semi-Final with England but they moved it to Wembley for the Southerners, but err no it was crazy (unclear). In fact the North West generally, Liverpoolians especially... I mean it was just packed out you know, brilliant.

Q: Who did you go to the match with?

I: I guy I hadn't seen for twelve months, he used to sit next to me at school and he phoned me up and said did I fancy to go and err I said yeah, great, you know we'll go to two matches. He was working, I was a student, so he paid cos he said that was unfair and I thought that was unfair as well, err, so I went with him.

Q: So how old were you?

I: I was nineteen, nineteen.

Q: And at university?

I: At university, yeah, I was on my break between first and second year. We hitched, we didn't...well no the first match we went there his dad gave us a lift there but he couldn't give us a lift back, and it's a very boring story but I'll tell you anyway. We were hitching at night, it was very late for two young boys and this women stopped and said could she...(unclear).. we'd been walking for about two miles and nobody had picked us up cos we must have looked a bit rough, and this one said "jump in" and then she was scared stiff that she'd picked two young lads up..."And your not going to hurt me are you, you're not going to hurt me", and I said well I'm a student and he's an accountant – trainee. And my mate said "I know your face don't I" and she said "Well I've been on the television". He said "Your Elsie Tanner"! She was Pat Phoenix out of Coronation Street. And she said "Aye you know"...what she was doing in Liverpool I've got no idea, but anyway that was the best thing about that night really and she was a dead nice women, you know, she was very, very made up but then she would be.

Q: Was she a football fan? Did you talk to her about the World Cup?

I : No, no, she didn't know anything about football really, she just had been in Liverpool and was driving back to Manchester and picked up these two young boys, you know.

Q: So it was a good end to a day of football...

I: It was a lovely end. The next match my mate borrowed his dads car and we went there and back which was much quicker than the way we'd done it before.

Q: So you didn't use any of the special buses they but on?

I: No, we didn't no. If I'd been Liverpoolian I probably would've done because they were from, you know but from St Helens there wasn't even going to be coaches (unclear), which normally... there were coaches to every Everton match but there wasn't any to the World Cup so we didn't use anything like that.

Q: Do you remember the build up to the World Cup in the press, were people excited about it?

I: Yes, yes they were, they were very excited. But, I must admit not, not like today where everyone's giving England a chance. The press didn't really give England a chance, they said...you know...they said they would probably get through the group stages, but nobody thought...there was Brazil, Portugal, Italy, these were top world teams. And Alf Ramsey wasn't picking the best players, as far as the press were concerned. Roger Hunt, Liverpool, he was banging goals in, in the First Division, Jimmy Greaves...been all over the world, top class player, he wasn't being picked by Sir Alf Ramsey, he was picking these Geoff Hursts and Martin Peters, two young lads from West Ham. And the press were having a bit of a go at him, why isn't he picking Jimmy Greaves and...but he was a systems man, you know, and his system, these players fit best. So yeah it was a big build up but not many in the press gave England

a chance of winning it and even on the day of the Final, you know, it wasn't...West Germany were a better team according to the press, you know but come lads and do it for us (laughs).

Q: So how did people find out about what was going on in the World Cup at the time. Was it on television?

I: Television, the first...I mean in those days one match...Match of the Day...but it was the first time every game was shown on television, not live, some were live but not many live, most of it was either on the cinema – Pathé news or the BBC had everything (unclear), mostly in black and white, even the Cup Final, well in those days mine was black and white anyway at home. And the games were all on the television and it was a regular...but not like today, not like blanket coverage you get today, you go everywhere don't you, see everything...it wasn't like that but it was fairly well covered by the TV.

Q: Did you watch the Final on television

I: Yeah, oh I did yeah, oh yes, oh yes, oh yes. Erm, my brother was only, he was only twelve but he was a big boy, he was six foot one then and err we watched it and we went out and got drunk. And I mean he could get served at twelve... I had trouble getting served at nineteen, I had to prove my age sometimes and he was just completely soft (unclear), they'd serve him and then ask me if I was eighteen, but err yeah we watched it at home, black and white telly and it was great.

Q: Was there a big party atmosphere?

I: Yes, unfortunately in those days pubs shut at eleven o'clock, so the celebrations stopped at eleven o'clock you know people weren't out on the streets or...where as now a days you'd be up to four or five I think. But it was a very good atmosphere. I would say, I mean round here we had the biggest, we had the biggest attendances at Goodison. Old Trafford were getting 26,000, we were getting 62,000, but we had the best teams so it's quite understandable why Liverpool did come to the matches you know.

Q: What do you think it meant to the people of Liverpool to have the World Cup in their city?

I: They loved it, they loved it. They would have loved it more had Sir Alf Ramsey played some of the players. The only player he played regularly was Ray Wilson, Ramon Wilson, who played for Everton, left back, quite old, thirty one at the time but cracking left back, but there was Roger Hunt, Ed Byrne, Gerry Bryne, there were Liverpool players who were seen as top class but they weren't getting the games. And, I think that was a bit of a, you know, it took a bit of the edge off, but since England weren't playing up here...but they loved it. I mean if you want to see some of the attendances, I mean the one I went to Brazil versus Portugal 62,000 and it was something like 55,000...52,000 for the Portugal - North Korea game.

Q: Is that more than they get into Goodison Park today because of the seats?

I: Oh yeah yeah, I mean , oh yeah. I've been on Goodison when there's been 72,000 and there's been more because they'd let people in if you passed them money to the gate keeper. Oh yeah, I mean now a days you would be hard pressed to get forty nine – fifty in. Erm and they've expanded them, some of the stands but oh yeah, it was much more than today. But Eusébio said, Goodison Park, even now, the atmosphere inside the game, he played two, three games there, was the best atmosphere he'd ever had, and that was Liverpool people, usually taking the under dogs side. Portugal -North Korea, Brazil - Portugal, Portugal were the underdogs,

Brazil were the Champions and they won three –one. Portugal - North Korea, it was five – three but North Korea went three – nil up, supported by Liverpoolians, they were the underdogs, you know, and it was a cracking atmosphere.

Q: So how did the fans in Liverpool get on with the other fans that came from other countries?

I: Great, great, yeah, I mean there weren't that many...you can watch...if you go to the You Tube the matches are on, actually on You Tube and you can, it shows, it shows, I mean according to the snaps on You Tube you'd think there were millions of foreigners. There was a very small section of each stand with a Brazil flag, very small section with Portugal and Koreans I don't think there were any at all, there might have been one, from the local Chinese... I don't know, but err it was very very erm...but they were made to feel very (unclear) and a lot of them didn't stay in Liverpool anyway, they were based in the North West and they were sent to different places to stay. Some stayed in Manchester, came to Liverpool, so it wasn't like European Capital of Culture 2008, it was, but they, but they were treated with a great deal of respect. 'Cos they were football fans Liverpoolians would accept them, you know, err I think that was what it was like.

Q: Ok, so finally what was your favourite memory of the tournament?

I: Favourite memory must be the North Koreans and I recommend anybody to go onto the web to You Tube to see this, I mean I've never seen football like it before or since, it was unbelievable. It was like ants on a hill.

Q: Is that because they were not the favourites to win the match, they were quite unknown?

I: It's because of the style of football. They came out, Portugal big favourites, Eusébio star, I, he was a disappointment to me, Eusébio, I thought he was pretty poor. I think I could have played better than him, but the North Koreans came out and they just ran everywhere, they just darted and everyone's laughing it was so good to watch. "What's he doing (unclear), oh he's got the ball" and then he'd.... and it was just flying everywhere the ball. You've got to see it on You Tube and they went three – nil up at half time and people said "I don't believe this". You could see the Portuguese were absolutely baffled and everyone's going "Yes"! And then they came out the Portuguese and just decided to play football. The North Koreans were knackered, really knackered and they were only small, I don't think there was one above five foot seven. The goalie was about four foot two, he was dead small the goalie and erm they just banged five in, but it was a great match. And at the end they both got a standing ovation. People just stood up and clapped and said "we want to see that again" (clapping) and that was my abiding memory is that game and of course the last thing was England won four – two, err, which was against all the odds as far as I'm concerned and the team wasn't that good, I still don't think it was the best team in that tournament but you don't have to be, system, Alf Ramsey, they won it (slams hand down on desk).

Q: Great, thanks Brian

I: Ok, thank you.

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