

Interview with Bobby Charlton (section)

When I first got involved with football, footballers were just as important as they are now, maybe more so. Maybe there was more of an affection towards the footballer because they really were in a way were just working, working class people like everybody else, they were not getting any more money than anybody could get in a decent job elsewhere. [Oh, really?] Well, I mean, when I first started, I was on, my first wage was twelve pound and ten in the summer, you know, even just after the war I think the wage was about eight pound, you know so it's changed in as much as, but, but people, but footballers were famous, you know. You went down the main street, just as today, you were inundated with people wanting to talk about the game, etc

[But were the pressures the same?]

No, no people left you alone. If you played bad, if you played bad there was no sort of recriminations or anything like that, you waited till the next match. No, there was no sort of detailed insight into why it was all wrong, and there were no supporters' bodies, you know, who wanted to know how this was done, and why, and this is wrong, etc. I remember when I used to go and watch Newcastle United play, when I was a young lad, and I remember just after the war, it must have been in the late forties when they put the price of admission up. From two-and-six, from two shillings to two-and-six. You know, and it was like questions in the House of Parliament, you know. But there were no supporters' associations that actually went and complained to the club, etc. [Right.] - it was just a government thing.