



1977: Bowles & Francis in training for the League Cup Semi-Final against Aston Villa

thought I'd take a chance. In hindsight, it was the worst move I ever made, I should have stayed at Rangers. Although my popularity hasn't diminished over the years, but it could have done.

[Laughs] I suppose you want to know where the £47,000 went... Well, you tell me!"

How did you find Brian Clough?

"Cloughie was all right, when he was asleep! No, I didn't get on with him and walked out on him before the European Cup Final.

I told him he could poke his European Cup winner's medal, which he did - a kid called Gary Mills got my medal in the end.

Mills apologised a couple of years afterwards, but I told him not to be sorry, at the end of the day you can't eat medals.

I didn't dislike Clough, he was quite amusing sometimes, but there was a clash of personalities. When you see Cloughie on the telly, that's not an act you know, he really is that arrogant. In the dressing room one day I remember him saying, 'Rome wasn't built in a day, but remember this laddie, I wasn't on that job!' He was a fucking nutcase."

Rangers' European campaign in 1976-77 was fantastic for you personally wasn't it?

"Yes it was, I broke Denis Law's goal-scoring record which only John Wark [Ipswich] has ever bettered. That was the highlight of my career really and I suppose I enjoyed that season more than the runners-up campaign from a personal point of view.

My most memorable goal in Europe that year was the one against Cologne at Shepherd's Bush, that broke the record and I remember thinking, 'fucking hell!'

The best side we played in the run were Slovan Bratislava, that was a cracking tie. We drew 3-3 over there and we beat them 5-2 at home - but it really could have been 5-5. It was all out attacking football by both sides and they had nine of the Czech international squad in their side at the time.

But missing out on the Championship was a bigger heartbreak than missing out in Europe, especially for the fans."

I've read your autobiography and there are some notorious stories about your off the pitch exploits in Europe that season. Was the club petrified every time you went away?

"Not really, I was never that bad. If I wanted a drink I had a drink, if I didn't want a drink I wouldn't have one. I wasn't a heavy drinker then, but if I fancied one I'd go for it."