



**Terry Cochrane challenges for the ball with Nottingham Forest's Archie Gemmill**

**The perceived view about Bobby Murdoch is that he was a good coach, but not cut out to be a manager - do you agree?**

"Bobby was too nice. A lovely man. I think some of the lads he bought didn't play for him. Where he fell down was that he wasn't ruthless enough to tell them."

**Why did Malcolm Allison off-load you?**

"Clash of personalities. I was a popular lad at Boro, as was Jim Platt. I don't rate him as a manager. He lived on the glory days of Joe Mercer. Mal was a good coach though. I don't agree with a man who can cut you to bits when he hasn't done what you've done; he wasn't a footballer. Jim and I were the only internationals at the club and he wanted rid of us. One of the things he said was that the club was trying to save money.

But then he employed a dance instructor called Lenny Hepple and a guy called Roger Spry who was a Karate black belt whose job it was to show us how to fall down and get back up again quickly. But when Heine Otto fell he damaged his shoulder and had to be taken to outpatients! Then to save money Allison told Harry the tea man that the club couldn't afford £18 a week to keep him. The players ended up paying Harry's wages just to keep him on.

I think one of the reasons for Stephen Bell's downfall was that Mal built him up too much. Stephen could have been a great footballer if he'd been taken in hand at seventeen but Mal let him get away with murder." [Stephen Bell was a teenage prodigy who played at sixteen but who discovered drink and women and was finished at twenty-two. Sadly he died in 2001]

**Did he want you and Jim Platt out because you were established at the club? Maybe saw you as a threat to his authority?**

"That's right. He wanted the kids to listen to him and nobody else - I don't even speak to him now. He let me go to Gillingham on a free."

**Was that a good deal for you?**

"It was a great deal for me. Keith Peacock took me down there and I was voted Third Division Player's Player of the Year. I was also voted the most popular ex-player in the history of Gillingham by the fans. They still ask me down there to play in charity games. It's tremendous. But if Mal had left and Willie Maddren had taken over while I was there, I'd loved to have stayed."

**He probably would have been glad to have you. The club was in a terrible state when he took over as manager.**

"He was on a hiding to nothing. If he'd had Steve Gibson behind him it may have been different!"