

me and he told me it was our Chairman. So I called Thompson and he said that he thought I might be interested!

I told him that in that case I'd speak to Wolves because as far as I was concerned he'd made his position perfectly clear, but I turned the job down because I was happy where I was, we were seventh in The Premiership at the time. I then asked for a new contract, along with my staff, but he didn't want to do that either, so it was obvious, the writing was on the wall."

You mention that you felt Rodney Marsh could have been used as part of a plot to get you to leave QPR, but what are your thoughts of him as a team mate?

"Well I was much younger than Rodney, his heyday was in the Third Division really - I think he only scored three or four goals for Rangers at the highest level. He had a fantastic record in the lower division though, then after a few injury problems, did well in the Second Division team that got promoted to the top flight.

But in my opinion, the best player we had in that position, by a long way, came along after Rodney had left to join Manchester City - Stan Bowles.

But what Rodney did was to give the club a lift and the fans an idol. It was fantastic for the club to have that focus, he scored a great goal in the League Cup Final and he was a showman. Rodney was just as happy to nut-meg someone and have a laugh about it as he was to win the game, he had fantastic ability and certainly helped put the club on the map. He did an awful lot for QPR."

When Rodney left and Stan came in, did the rest of the squad feel that Bowles would fill his shoes quite so quickly?

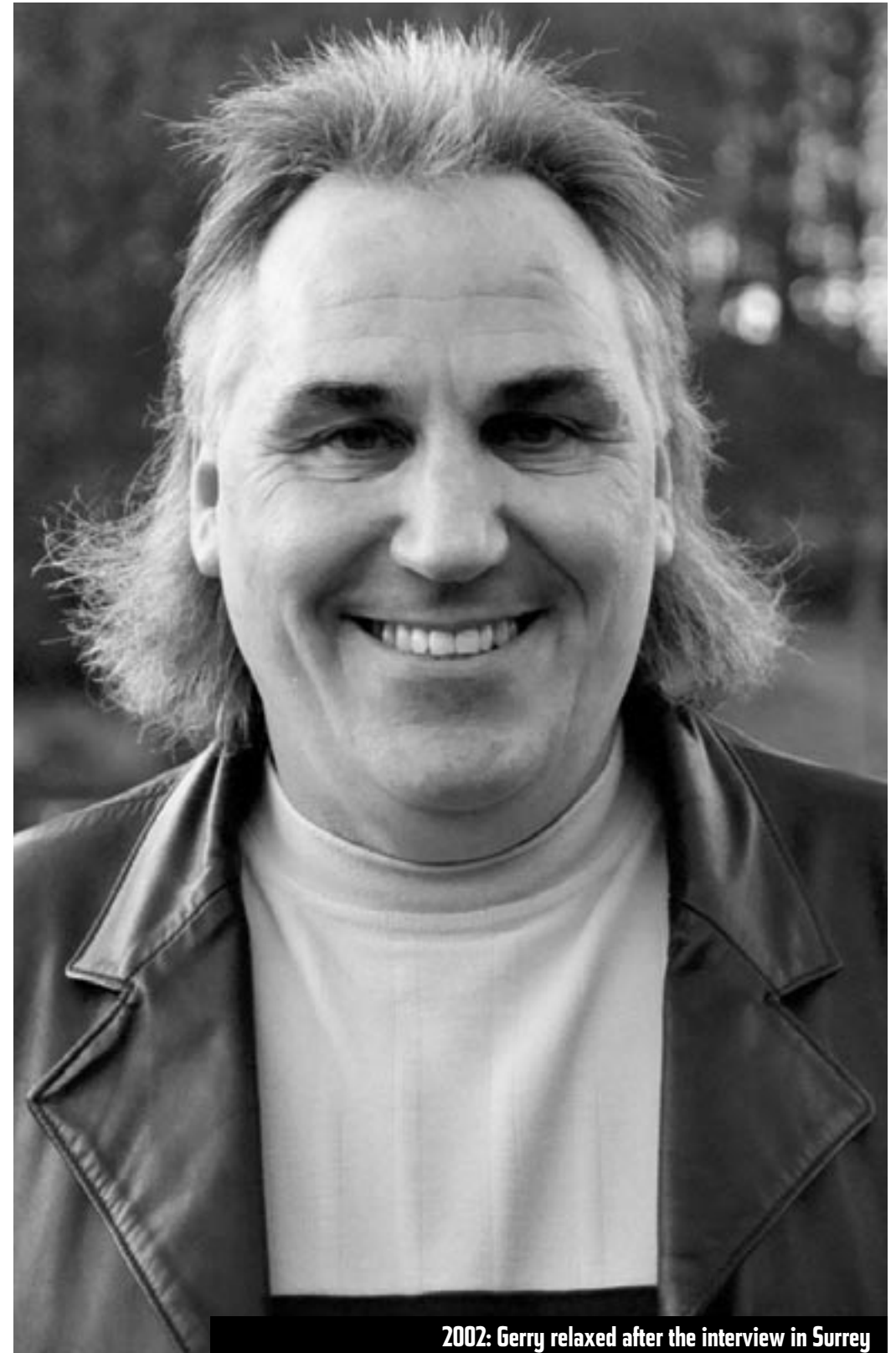
"Well that didn't happen overnight, but I hit it off with Stan in training straight away, it was an almost telepathic relationship.

Not only that but Stan was a winner. He had his problems, whether they be gambling or not turning up, but he had outstanding ability and wanted to win games. You wouldn't think he possessed the kind of professionalism that he did, in many ways he was a 'live for today' kind of guy, always broke, always struggling for money, always borrowing money, always betting - but somehow he'd shake all that off and go out and perform.

You don't realise it at the time, but the few years I spent with Stan were the greatest in my career - we should have won the title in 1975-76, we were the best team in the country, no doubt about it."

Does that season haunt you?

"Yeah, it does a bit. Mainly because of the way the title was decided and



2002: Gerry relaxed after the interview in Surrey