

was only ever going to be a stepping stone for Stewart and that's what it proved to be, we were all really pleased for him.

Fate would have it that Brentford got drawn in the League Cup to play against Stewart Houston's Manchester United at Old Trafford the season after he left, do you remember the trip?

Keith Lawrence headed us ahead from a Paul Bence free kick, one-up at Old Trafford! We deserved a draw from the match, but the goalie, Bill Glazier, messed it up for us on the night and we lost two-one.

At least you got a chance to play that night, the year before you missed out in the League Cup tie at Liverpool - did you travel up to watch the match anyway?

No I didn't go up there and watch. I'd been sent off the week before at Southport for fighting, we could have appealed against it I suppose, which would have allowed me to play, but I was guilty as charged and I would have ended up with an extended suspension if I'd wasted their time. It was more important I was available for the league matches.

Were you aware that there was boardroom talk about transferring you back to Guildford City at one stage?

Yeah I remember that, it was the year Mike Everitt was in charge, I was really hacked off because his arrival was a real kick in the goolies. I bumped into an ex-Guildford team-mate one night, who'd become manager after I left, and he told me how much he'd like to have me back at the club. I told him that if he could match my wages then I'd seriously consider it, and there were talks between the clubs, but nothing came of it in the end.

Brentford's fate after going up has been well documented during the interviews for these books, but what are your views on the team's relegation in 1973?

The lack of investment in the side obviously played a major part in what happened that season, but I thought we were really unlucky too. We played some great football that year in my view and it seemed as if we lost a lot of games just by the odd goal here and there, we seemed to get punished harshly for mistakes. The players that were brought in were too ordinary which didn't help either.

How much of an impact did the other big name sales have on the squad or did the players see their transfers as an incentive; if you played well you stood every chance of a top club coming in for you and Brentford not standing in your way?



The early days, Jackie Graham went on to become a true Brentford legend