



2002— Higginson's leg following his knee replacement

So what did you think about Brentford and London after Kilmarnock back then?

"I was delighted and I used to get about as much as I could. I used to go to all the dog tracks around and watch the racing."

Where did you stay when you first came down to London?

"I was in digs for a while. The first place was near Boston Manor then I moved in with a family at the back of Northfields station. But I remember I wasn't getting fed as I wanted and I had to go to local cafes for a meal after training.

They were nice people and the house was clean, but I didn't like having to eat chips and stuff after training, so MacDonald sorted me out another place, living with pensioners. I needed to be well fed, which I was. I was a good eater in those days. Our pre-match meal back then was always steak."

You took a while to break into the first team though?

"Yes I took a wee while, I got a few games that first season, but in those days I was an inside-forward or half-back, which were similar positions, but it's all different now. Anyway, Jim Towers got injured and I played up front for a couple of games."

When you came onto the pitch covering for Jim Towers for the first time, the entire Brook Road booed you. It must have been a baptism of fire?

"Aye they did. Well, he was so popular. But you've just got to get on with it haven't you? Jim Towers was a big personality - he was a very good player. But I didn't get much abuse really, not that I remember.

Maybe I did [laughs] but a lot of the songs from the crowd sounded like just one big noise from the pitch, but I was a trier and I think the crowd liked me. Maybe I'm being big headed but I think I was alright."

After slipping back into your more accustomed positions you made either the number four or six shirt your own for virtually the next decade didn't you?