



couldn't leave the house for a week. I was even too frightened to go to the player's Christmas party that year.

Frank McLintock will always be remembered by Brentford fans for some very dodgy signings, for every Robbie Cooke there was an Ian Holloway or a Rowan Alexander. Do you agree with that?

Frank really screwed it up in the transfer market, a combination of letting too many good players go, then bringing in some substandard replacements. Some of his signings were good players though; Jamie Murray was okay, Bobby Fisher was good and Tom Finney was another one of those players that would crunch a forward all day long in the tackle, and another lovely bloke off the pitch too. The players I was most upset with were Rowan Alexander and Steve Butler, they were poor.

I remember Terry Hurlock telling me after training one afternoon that he'd been speaking to Frank about a new striker he was about to sign; a big, strapping Scottish centre-forward, somebody the manager was confident could replace the fifty goals I'd scored in my two seasons at the club.

So you can imagine our faces when five-foot-nothing Rowan turned up at training for the first time. It did make me think whether Frank had ever seen the player first hand or if he'd had a change of plan at the last moment and had bought somebody else instead. Don't get me wrong, Rowan was a nice boy who worked hard, very hard, but we needed a maturer player at that time.

Whenever I hit a bad pass during a match or in training I'd be mad with myself but could shrug it off quickly and get on with my game, but the way I saw things, if Rowan did the same, it seemed to affect his confidence badly.

The highlight of Frank's time at Brentford was the side's Wembley appearance in the Freight Rover Cup Final against Wigan in 1985. Being injured still, where did you watch the match?

I watched it down on the bench but the side didn't perform on the day and it was a horrible experience to be looking on with a busted leg. I felt sorry for my team mates because they were so shocking. But it was just one of those things. Robbie Cooke got a good goal, but then again, I thought Robbie was a very good striker. He's the Chief Scout for Everton Football Club these days.

You made your long awaited return to the side at the end of April 1986, scoring in a three-all draw at home to York City. Your brother, Roger, also scored in that game which was a new club record.

Roger had been with me at Brentford almost from day one. As soon as I signed I told Fred Callaghan that he should have a look at my brother. He had very good pace and recovery, Roger was a very good player. It was a great experience to have your brother as a team mate.