



Terry Long and Palace manager Bert Head working together at Selhurst Park

The attractive football we were playing led to Palace fans turning up in their thousands, which was not only great for the atmosphere, but the players earned an extra pound or so if the attendances reached a certain figure. We really appreciated the support, especially away from home, and the players would always hand out their complimentary tickets to the fans that had travelled up to see us. The away following was excellent, even at places like Carlisle and Hartlepool, not easy trips to make in those days when the motorway system was so poor and the cars weren't much better than stagecoaches.

Our wages were also linked to our position in the League and I wish I'd kept copies of my old contracts so I could look back and see all the ins and outs from back then. Unfortunately I threw a lot of my old stuff away when I moved house a few years ago, including the Real Madrid number ten shirt that I was given by Del Sol after they'd beaten us at Selhurst Park!

What a night that was... not least because I scored that long-ranger at the Holmesdale end! It's a great feeling to be able to say to your friends and family when Real Madrid are on television in the Champions League, "I've scored against them!" You can never tire of letting people know whilst wearing a wry smile on your face. Even after all these years, I can still visualise letting fly with my left foot from about thirty yards and watching the ball go like an arrow, no higher than six inches off the ground, right across the front of the 'keeper and into the side of the net. A priceless feeling, and one I will always remember.

Unfortunately the League opposition eventually got wise to our beautiful 'give and go' game and they became increasingly physical in an attempt to stop us dictating the pace. Things weren't helped by Arthur Rowe's illness. He was suffering from mental exhaustion. Rumours then started to circulate about Johnny Byrne leaving. The team started to struggle a bit after promotion to the Third Division because there was a lot of uncertainty about the manager. In those days you accepted what you were told by the club and didn't really delve too much behind the scenes, but it was sad to find out that Arthur had to vacate his position at the club and things changed totally when Dick Graham arrived mid-season.

To give Dick credit, something had to be done to stop the rot because the 'push and run' style had gone a bit bent, and that's what he did. He made us mark the other team man-for-man and he would know the other team inside out thanks to the in-depth scouting reports that he had prepared. Before a game we would all be assigned a player and we would literally have to follow them around all over the pitch for the entire ninety minutes. This used to drive the other teams crazy, I remember one afternoon I'd been told to shadow Birmingham's Alex Jackson who was on the left wing, and with me being right-back, every where he went I