

5 Minutes of your time - Fergus Moore

Roger Slater

Five minutes of your time, please – with Fergus Moore

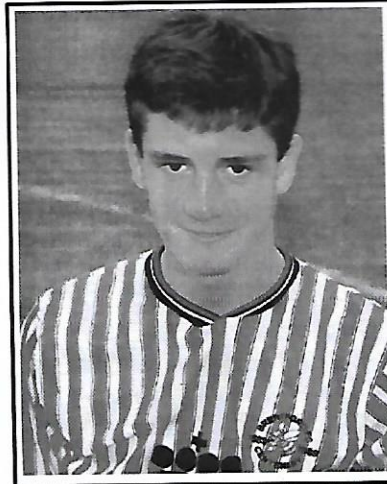
Fergus, how would you introduce yourself to other fans? How many clubs have you played for?

Well where do I start!! Even though I've had my fair share of clubs I wouldn't describe myself as "a journeyman". I have always given every club I played for no less than 100% and never went through the motions to pick up the pound notes, (unlike some players i have played with and against!) My conscience is clear on that!

From what I can remember and in chronological order; Yeading, Staines Town, Uxbridge, Wealdstone, Chertsey Town, Hemel Hempstead, Wealdstone, Hemel Hempstead, Borehamwood, Northwood, Wealdstone (- again! - love and kisses), AFC Hayes, Edgware (r.i.p.), Bedfont Green / Town, Windsor and (finally) Hanwell Town.

it would be nice to be thought of by other fans as the opponent you would most like to have in your side! I am very transparent so other fans probably see me as the stones fans see me; a 100% committed and wholehearted player.

Do you remember your first



game?

My first non league game was for Yeading away to Aveley under the leadership of Messrs Bartlett and Morris!

In fact it was a game where i learnt my first lesson in non league. It was the season after Yeading won the vase and they had a very settled side and were very close knit. I was on loan from Brentford and a very raw teenager who didn't know anyone, playing in a side with men who all knew each other. I had a solid enough game at left back in a 1-0 defeat and in the dressing room after, Gordon dissected what went on

in the game. No blame was directed to me whatsoever so i felt pleased even though we lost, then a certain Steve Croad, the captain of the side wanted to add his views which included blaming me for his man scoring the winner, because it came from a cross from my side of the pitch! I thought 'cheers you w****r!'

To be fair, it made me think you either sink or swim here and twenty-odd years down the line I'm still swimming.

The lesson learned is, even though it is only non league, you have to be mentally strong and be able to react to criticism in a positive way. Something that I believe I have done throughout my career.

It seems like you've been around since they took the laces out of the ball! At 40, is there another season in the tank?

Yes definitely!

My desire and attitude to play is still there. Perhaps this year is the swansong, but playing in the lower echelons of non league still rocks my boat and I can hold my own at that level. It may have cost me a few coaching /

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manager positions, but i cant control the way my mind works - and the fear of not playing scares me more than anything!

I suppose reality will have to sink in eventually, but in the meantime, I've signed for Cockfosters and will be playing alongside a few old friends as well!

Everyone who knows you will now the passion – but how would you describe Fergus Moore the Footballer in one sentence?

Charismatic, effervescent, passionate, fully committed, with a never say die attitude, determined and admirable.

What's the Day Job?

BT engineer. I'm a fibre optics technician.

Whatever happens, when you look back, you'll see a decent career in Non League as a player. Is Managing and / or Coaching something that interests you?

Most definitely! Football always has been in my blood. It's what drives me – the adrenalin - if I didn't have it I wouldn't be half the person I am. Managing would interest me more as I'd be the one in charge, making the match defining decisions, but either way I will be desperate for some role to try and ease the pain of not playing when the time comes.



I'll grant you three wishes;

One – you can change something about yourself and your game;

The most obvious one would probably to have been blessed with a bit more bloody pace!! I felt I had most attributes needed to be a top player but being left footed with pace is a recipe to go a long, long way in the game.

Two – you can change one thing that happened in your career;

I'm not one of these people who reflects on what might have been! My motto is that you made your bed you can lie in it. If you make a move and it's not working out, try and make a go of it. Eventually if you have tried your best and it still doesn't work, then it's time to go.

If I could change one thing I would have loved to have stayed

at Wealdstone rather than have the 3 different spells. My desire to play outweighed the club I was at - I just wanted to play so much. I would always fight for my chance but when there was no obvious light at the end of the tunnel, for my own sanity and however much it broke my heart, I had to move on.

I have an affinity with all the clubs I played for but a very, very special one with the Stones. Their supporters more than any I played for appreciated what I was all about. I felt proud and honoured to have skippered that fantastic club and be part of making the club great again after having gone through the mire in previous years. The last parting of the ways put a strain on my relationship with Gordon Bartlett who I have known for over 20 years but thankfully me

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and my "football father" have patched up our differences and are sharing football trials and tribulations again. That means a lot to me.

Three you can change one thing to improve the game as a whole....

Better referees! Preferably who've played the game.

Looking back on your career, do you think the game at Non League level has changed over the time you've played?

Yes it has. They did the Conference split thing a few years ago and promoted top half teams etc. Basically Conference South would have been the Ryman Premier when I started, the result is that I don't think the standard is as good technically, and the game is much more frenetic as a result of the dilution.

Also, players attitude's have changed. In 'the good old days' the lads would hang around in the clubhouse and go home after a few jars and move on to nightclubs etc. I know circumstances such as driving and mobiles don't give you as much freedom as we used to have but I don't think that can excuse players hanging around on edge till 6 o'clock, getting paid and then bugging off. I don't think that builds team spirit - which I feel is a vital ingredient of a successful side.

You've also played with hun-



dreds of players - who would be right up there with the best, and who is the youngster you've played with recently that you'd tip as one to watch?

As you said there are many players I have played with and that makes it hard to single out any outstanding individuals in what is a team game. Great players don't always blend into great teams.

I suppose the stand out player in relation to what he achieved in the pro game would be Simon Garner who made his name with Blackburn Rovers. He came to us (at Wealdstone) in the twilight of his career but he was immense. He had a turn of pace over couple of yards that belied his age and build. He just had a magic presence about him, a very, very intelligent player and a fantastic bloke as well. I'd have loved to see him play

in his prime. Ha, he had great false teeth as well - I can vouch for that as they ended up on my bedside cabinet after a night out in Northampton!

For the youngster, a young pro at Barnet - George McCluskey. I played with him when he was a 16 year old at Bedfont. If he doesn't make it at Barnet, then I'm sure he will have a very good career in non league. He has an absolute wand of a left foot!

Finally, do you pay much attention to the Professional game? Would you change anything about it?

I haven't had much time for the pro game due to my commitments in non league, but I did have the chance to go to a Watford game against Bristol City last season compliments of GB! I thoroughly enjoyed it as I took my two boys and it was an eye opener as I hadn't been to a pro match for about fifteen years. The atmosphere was good and the two boys got a real buzz from it so I'll definitely make the effort to go to more games. (When I'm not playing, of course!)

Five Minutes of Your Time is one of a number of articles produced for the blog at www.2ndyellow.com where there is a regular column on Wealdstone.