

THIS IS THE ONE

BACK TO BASSICS WITH MANI

While drinking away the profits of Under the Boardwalk, Ryan Famine bumped into Primal Scream's Mani in Manchester's Dry Bar. Mani tells him about selling his Lambretta to get to Camp Nou in '99, a wild night with God and how football supporters should 'ask for their ball back'.

UTB: How long have you been a united fan?

Mani: Since before I dropped out of me dad's bag. If I'd shown any city tendencies I'd have been drowned in a bucket of water at birth. And thank fuck for that, 'cos I hate 'em and they're shite.

UTB: What's your first memory of united?

M: My first memory was probably being took to a reserve game in about 1965 or 1966. I remember seeing my first black footballer. I think he was called Tony Whelen (he was united's first black player and is now a youth team coach at Old Trafford - Google), he must have been a youth, he never made to the first team squad. That's an enduring memory, seeing my first black football player. I don't know what ever became of him.

UTB: Were any of your family members football fans?

M: They were all football fans and there's some tenuous link with Nobby Stiles. 'Cos me uncle Des has married his cousin so he was also half in the clan.

UTB: Family eh. I see.

M: Well, not that he'd know me if I fell out of the sky and hit him on his big bald head.

UTB: Do you have a favourite united match?

M: There's been so many, obviously the European Cup final goes down in history has the game I waited my whole life to see and missed the winning goal. I had to sell me fuckin' Lambretta - my most prized possession - because I promised the missus [he'd take her] because she'd been to all the euro away games with me that year and we never lost so I thought right this is a good omen. We didn't go to Juventus because I had other things on. When we was two - nil down I thought 'oh, fuckin' 'ell man we're gonna go out 'ere' anyway, bang, bang, bang there you go. It's come to the Monday and I've had to sell me Lambretta and I sold it for £3,500 and booked a week in Salou and then we got outside the ground and paid £400 each for tickets and didn't even get 'em clipped we ended up jibbing in, this bit of fence went down. So I've still got me ticket unfuckin' clipped. And in the 89th minute I was fuckin' weeping like a baby and she's on the step behind me going, 'don't worry about it we'll be back again', 'we fuckin' won't' [he wept], 'I've sold me scooter'. Then bang there it goes again. I just fuckin sat down and me heart was fuckin' pumping out me chest with emotion and I just lit this big bifta up and I was just in floods of fuckin' tears it was just the most emotional thing and then everyone's up again and I thought, 'it must be extra time' and she said 'no it's not Ole's just scored you daft cunt'. So we're gonna have to get there again so I can see us score the winning goal.

UTB: Have you ever been a season ticket holder at united?

M: I used to have league match ticket books. What with one thing or another 'cos of like the Roses and all that. I got John Squire into united. Brian McClair sorted us out league match ticket books and we had them going for years and then when John left the band, he'd lent them to his cousin so obviously I didn't speak to him for a bit and never renewed it so I'm normally fishing about for tickets but Mr Boyle usually sorts me out. I get him in free at the gigs and he gets me in free at united

UTB: There was a rumour about you refusing to play in the Budweiser tent at Glastonbury.
M: Well, yeah, it's half true and half the fact that I was in the studio recording me LP. Upon reflection being a patron of Shareholders United I thought it'd be fuckin' wrong if I did it. So it weren't gonna happen anyway.

UTB: Did you ever get opportunity to watch united while you were on tour?

M: If united's on you'll dig it out in the backwaters of Stockholm or wherever you are. I remember I was on tour with the Roses once. It was when Lee Martin scored the winner for us in the replay against Palace. And we fucking just ripped Stockholm to pieces that night. You know, I've been in New York and been in bars, I've been in Santa Monica and been in bars at seven in the morning to go and watch united play and all that. When we get the tour dates we think 'shit we're gonna miss this match', we get someone at the record company to find out where there's a place we can go and see it.

UTB: Have you had the chance to see FC United yet?

M: No, next couple weeks I shall be there for sure man.

UTB: Have you read Under The Boardwalk?

M: I never seen it, but I'll give it a good studying today man. It's gonna be all good 'cos it's football back for the people.

UTB: Did you know it was cheaper for an adult and child to watch Inter Milan at the San Siro that it is for them to go to watch Oxford Utd?

M: Unreal innit. That's the way the games going it's just over commercialised. You know what there's only so much air you can squeeze into a balloon and one day it's

gonna pop man. It can't carry on as it. People just don't have that amount of money to spend.

UTB: Do you think football clubs are pricing the game out of reach of the working man?

M: You know what it's a case of please mister can we have our ball back. It's been fuckin' nicked and no one's even asked us if they can fuckin' have it. Grassroots football is built on your working man. It's all good with prawn sandwich brigade - they'll soon lose interest. They'll probably all be into cricket now and fuckin' rugby like they were last year. We need our ball back. It is ours. It hasn't kept pace with inflation has it at all. You know when you look around now, at the Middleboro' game yesterday, you can have a game of cricket on the terraces there's that many empty seats. They should have a scheme that makes it cheaper on the not too glamorous games to encourage people in like kids and that. There's nothing more soul destroying for a footballer than seeing a half empty ground. Why not get it full up. It's all about profit margins. It's killing it man.

UTB: Are you a fan of traditional kick-off times?

M: Absolutely. Who can fuckin' make it to the ends of the earth at midday somedays.

UTB: You think Sky TV's fucked it up then?

