



was injured, so I came in for a couple of games," he recalled. "I got a nice easy start as well: Brazil at Wembley in front of 92,000 people!

"The last time I'd been to Wembley had been for the Friday night dog racing, so the arse was twitching a touch!"

This was by no means the only example during the evening of Pearce's legendary dry wit. Indeed, if his management career goes tits-up, then only a fool would rule out an alternative career in stand-up on the basis of his performance at Cabaret. As you can see from the headline for this feature, Pearce's response when asked about the Stan Collymore 'dogging' allegations was priceless and

throughout the evening he dealt with good-natured heckling from the audience like a seasoned pro.

That said, he was momentarily lost for words when one of the more imaginative hecklers yelled "Miss Ramsbottom!" – a piece of dialogue from the Pizza Hut TV commercial that Pearce and Gareth Southgate appeared in in the late 1990s. The ad in question was a skit based on the two players' infamous missed penalties for England, a subject about which Pearce talked candidly.

"It's not always the good times that stick in your head when you look back on your career," he mused. "Sometimes the bad times do too. One thing

I'll always remember is coming home after I'd missed the penalty. The backing I got from the people of Nottingham was unbelievable.

"As for the penalty I took six years later against Spain, I often think about what would've happened if I'd missed again! I'd have been well and truly in the shit! There wouldn't have been any of the 'Ah, good old Psycho.' It'd have been 'What a twat!'"

But even if he had missed again, it's hard to imagine any Reds fan thinking in those terms. Indeed, when John Gwynne invited questions 'from the floor', the very first one saw a hopeful punter ask Pearce if he'll ever return to Forest as manager.

"No matter how long I work elsewhere, I think I'll always

he said, 'Don't ever come back. We want to always remember you as you were, rather than you coming back here and possibly ending up failing as a manager.'"

That said, Pearce went on to claim that he's actually rang the club to apply for the job twice in the last few years, but never been offered so much as an interview. [Nigel Doughty denied this when asked about it a few weeks later by a member of the LTLF team at a 'fans forum' event.]

For now though, Pearce feels Forest's current manager is definitely the right man to lead the Reds back from the abyss. He said: "Megson's certainly been saddled with problems that have accumulated over a long period of time. But with his track record of getting

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be associated with Forest," he stated. "I still get more letters from Forest fans than anyone else – more even than Manchester City fans. But I was talking to a Forest fan recently, who was obviously a touch disgruntled due to the team having gone down. And

teams promoted, I think he'll be as good as anyone for the challenge that lies ahead."

Let's hope he's right...

More highlights from the 'Evening with Stuart Pearce' plus other LTLF interviews at www.ltlf.co.uk/interviews

