

Wish you were here...

As we are all painfully aware, Forest didn't quite make it to the third round stage of the FA Cup this season. I thought the struggle to dispose of

BY TRICKY MATT

'Dare I say Burton Albion pass the ball in a better fashion than the current Forest team? You could have forgiven Burton for resorting to tactics of the spoiling nature against United, but they played the way we used to'

Weymouth was bad enough, but the drubbing at Chester was even worse.

However, the path currently taken by one of our former sons put an equally painful – but also pleasant – reminder of better times.

I am, of course, talking about Nigel Clough.

Very much a private man, this past month has seen him pushed in front of too many television cameras and

microphones for his liking. It has, however, given us, the mere public, an insight into Clough as a man and his credentials as a manager.

No piece on Nigel is likely to escape the mention of Brian, and this is no different. It is obvious to state how completely different they are, but only in manner. Whilst Brian would take on the media with a verve and zest more befitting of an A-List entertainer for example, Nigel plays the reserved role, looking to deflect attention away from himself and onto people who he feels more deserving, like the players.

If the approach is different, the style of play is identical. Dare I say Burton Albion pass the ball more often and in better fashion than the current Forest team? You could have forgiven Burton for resorting to tactics of the spoiling nature against Manchester United, but they didn't. They played the way we used to.

Brian had the phrase "If the opposition haven't got the ball then they cannot score" prominently displayed in the home dressing room of the Baseball Ground. I cannot help

thinking that the Forest of today would do well to heed such wisdom instead of setting up on the edge of our own box as was the case at Rotherham.

It seems clear, and expected, that Nigel builds his team like the ones he used to watch as a kid in the dugout and subsequently starred in.

The other side to the recent media intrusions was his unwavering dignity. As anyone who has lost a loved one will know, talking about that person, especially soon after that person's death, can be a painful experience. Ever the hounds, the media questions kept coming, "What would you have asked your Dad?", "What would he have made of the big day", etc.

Brian Clough was such an immense character that he became, and still is, public property. To Nigel he was simply Dad. It was easy to

forget that during the surrounding circus in the build up.

Time, of course, will reveal whether he has what it takes to manage amongst the best of them. The start Stuart Pearce has made in Manchester makes you think he will. What is not in doubt is the respect he gleans from those in and out of the game, something which is a lost art in the current age. I am sure Sir Alex, Arsene and Jose could learn a thing or two from him.

As for Forest? Well given my current misgivings about the current manager, I would welcome the prospect of having another Clough in the dugout.

Tricky Matt, aka 'The Rambling Red', is LTLF's longest-serving columnist. Read his and other articles every week on LTLF.co.uk.

DOUBLE TAKE

Des Walker, Texas Ranger



By Col

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