

## AN ORAL HISTORY OF BRENTFORD FOOTBALL CLUB

Interviewee: Natasha Joslin

Year of Birth: 1974

Born: Harrogate

Parents: Father was an IT consultant and mother a nurse

Date of interview 9<sup>TH</sup> March 2020

Location of interview: Griffin Park

Interviewer: Dan Patch

This is a very interesting interview from someone who is a more recent Brentford fan and is particularly interesting in that Tash discusses why she alighted on Brentford being the team that she wanted to give her commitment to and her perspectives of attending games as a woman.

Tasha comes from a family with a strong football supporting background but with no historical allegiance to Brentford. She explains that her support for a particular team tended to be transient as she lived and studied in different parts of the country and she explains why it became important to her to have an allegiance to a particular side with a strong community ethic and why she settled on Brentford where she is now a season ticket holder.

She talks about her first memory of attending a game when a wayward ball from the pre match kick-in wacked a spectator near to where she was standing and convinced her that standing behind the goal might not be the safest place to watch matches!

Tash talks about life as a woman supporter, which is largely positive although some old prejudices can remain such occasionally still not being taken so seriously as a woman fan . She also talks about supporting a less fashionable club and how it tends to have greater credibility as a fan when talking about her passion to others

Tash has interesting comments on how different the experience of evening games is when compared with the regular Saturday afternoons and how they are more of an event. She discusses how one's mind set is different and the release they can give from the pressures of work.

Away matches are discussed and Tash has interesting comments to make about her feelings of attending as an away fan particularly at some of the larger grounds and the difference in atmosphere.

Tash is proud of the club, particularly in the way that it is rooted in the local community and its encouragement of diversity and inclusion which she believes is reflected in the broad spectrum of supporters. She is looking forward to seeing matches at the new ground but at the same time will be sad that the era of Griffin Park is coming to an end.