

Scarborough Sea Wall Heritage Trail Project

Harry Dunn – Legendary Footballer for Scarborough FC - His Early Years

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Today I'm talking to Harry Dunn, Born and bred in Scarborough, Harry became a legendary player for Scarborough Football Club. So today I'm going to try to understand how Harry from his very young days developed the skills that made him such a celebrated player.

Harry, tell me about growing up in Scarborough and how important football was to you in your leisure time in those early years.

I was born in 1948 and I started playing football, probably when I was about two years old. I was out all the time playing football, we used to call it the halfway, which is between Barrowcliff and Gildercliff. When it was dark, we played under the street lights.

And how much time did you spend playing in the evenings, weekends, school holidays?

We were out all the time. We just went in for our lunch and dinner. I was out there at half past seven at night when my mum and dad called me to say I had to come in because it was getting late.

So how old were you when you started playing competitive team football?

I was playing up at Barrowcliff School when I was 8 or 9 against different schools and then it progressed from there to Westward when I was 11 years old. From there it was just inter schools.

At some point I'm guessing that somebody realised that you had quite a talent for the game. Who spotted this?

I think it was Eddie Brown who was the Scarborough manager who used to play for Birmingham City and one or two of his friends had seen me play and they asked me to go down to Scarborough Football Club.

Was there a strong sporting culture at your secondary school?

Yes there was. There was cricket, football, rugby and badminton There used to be Don Bull and Alan Smith. There was John Smith as well. They all used to be good teachers and they used to encourage me all the time.

Tell me, which national player was your hero in those early days and perhaps you might say, was there a team that you followed as well?

Yes, the player I liked was Bobby Moore. I think I started to play the same position as he did. And I like Sheffield Wednesday, I always wanted to play for Sheffield Wednesday because I thought that they were a good team at that time.

Living in Scarborough, did you travel to watch live football at any, any level?

No, not really. The only time I could go was when Scarborough were in the FA Cup and friends took us when I was younger. Also I'd watch it on TV when we did have television.

When was that.

I think it was 1966 with the World Cup. I watched it with my wife and in-laws.

In your teens you would be developing at school, how did you become to be part of Scarborough Football Club?

I was 16 and then I went to the tech college and during that time they asked me to go down, then I played for the Scarborough A team and then it progressed from there.

At some point, Harry, I'd like to have an interview with you about your time at Scarborough Football Club. But for now, thank you for describing to me your young days as a developing, budding player. Thank you.