

match, never giving up and constantly tackling and snapping at the heels of the Spurs forwards.

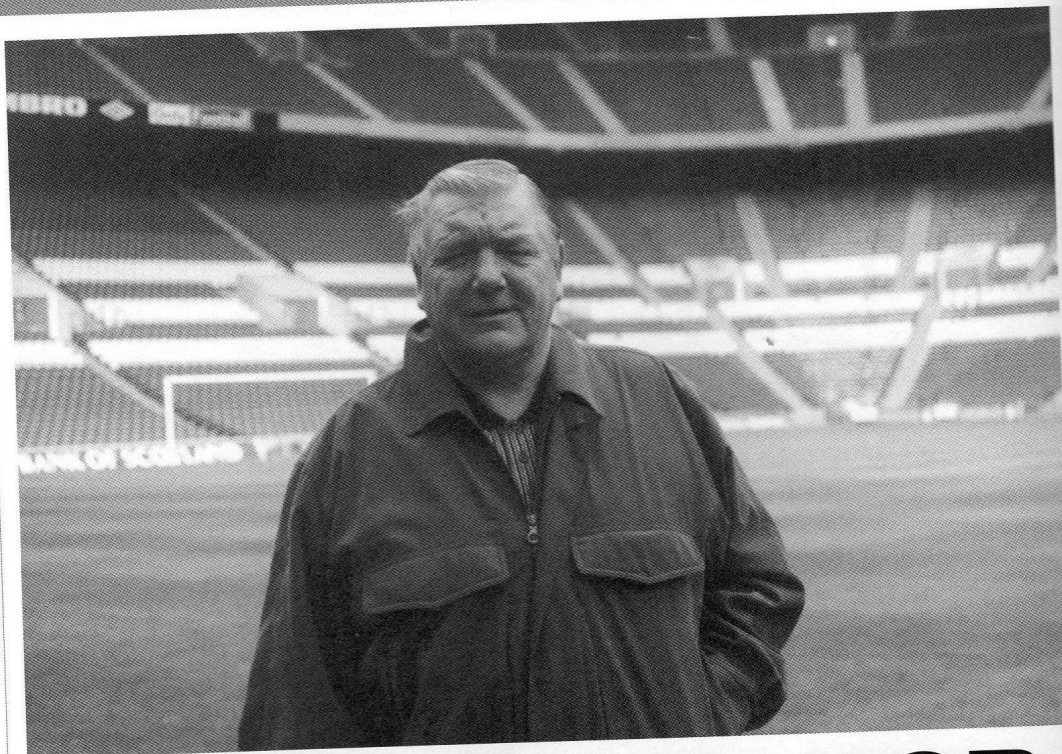
Stewart Downing also played very well, giving us much-needed bursts of speed. Never was an equaliser so richly deserved when Ricketts did eventually get the ball in the net four minutes from the end. All our past comments about how large and immobile he was were forgotten and the relief and celebrations were wonderful! He then went on to narrowly miss a couple more chances before the end of normal time, with Keller pulling off a point blank save to deny him what would have been the winner.

So we went into extra time and continued to dominate the match, with Keller again saving magnificently from Juninho and Downing. The large Boro crowd were buoyant and we clapped, cheered and chanted throughout the anxious 30 minutes. It seemed ages before the penalty shoot-out started. They were to be taken down at the opposite end from us but were shown on the large screen above the goal. I doubted whether I could bear to watch but I managed to peep through my hands to watch! I was so glad I was with my good friends to hug as it was a very emotional time! Mendieta had a quiet game by his standards but it was a shame that he was the one to miss. However Franck Queudrue was coolness personified as he strode up to score the winner. I think the players were as relieved as we were! They joined hands and did a collective dive towards the away end.

I didn't get home until 12.45, but it had been well worth it. Just a shame that we'd been drawn against Arsenal in the semis...

● Julie Yates

MSSer from Worcestershire Mike Fenton thought it would be *de rigueur* to wear his 1974 vintage Boro away strip on a visit to the Wright Brothers Memorial in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina last summer. Although it was not the ideal shirt for the weather, 98 degrees.



THE BOOK OF BOB

A book about an ex-Boro player and manager landed on **SHAUN KEOGH's** doormat...

A couple of years ago I received an email from a chap called David Potter. His letter explained that he was researching a biography of Bobby Murdoch, and asked if he could use sections of my interview with Murdoch (**mss** 128, summer 1999) in his book. I replied that I was happy for him to do so, in exchange for a copy of the finished work.

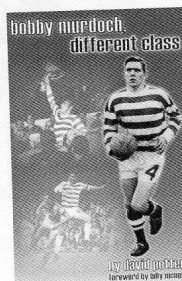
I promptly forgot all about it, until a month ago when the book turned up in my mailbox.

Any book about Murdoch would obviously not concentrate on his time at the Boro. Bobby is mostly remembered as the powerhouse of the European Cup winning Celtic side of 1967, the first British club to lift the European Cup.

Potter has put together a very factual and easy to read tome, but the problem for me lies in the factual side. It's not that I dispute any of these facts and stats, it's just hard work ploughing through them. It seems to me that most of the research for this book, was done at the local library, going through back copies of the local press.

That kind of research is to be expected, but it reads like a bunch of statistics put together as sentences and paragraphs. A bit more imagination and colour would not have gone amiss.

It would be easier to digest if Potter had simply printed the match-by-match



'Bobby Murdoch, Different Class'
by David W. Potter,
Empire
Publications
ISBN:
1901746321,
Paperback, 324pp,
£10.99

Top: Bobby Murdoch photographed by Shaun Keogh at Celtic Park in 1999

stats for all the seasons that Bobby played, with maybe 50 words of notes of interest at the bottom of each column.

There are no anecdotal stories; none of Bobby's former Celtic or Boro colleagues have been interviewed. Ironically, the only person quoted about Bobby's life and career is Bobby himself, the quotes taken from my interview. It seems bizarre to me that the only person quoted should be the only person from his career (with perhaps the exception of Willie Maddren) who is no longer with us.

I am grateful that one of the sections lifted from my interview and rehashed is not credited to me, as the Hutton Road of my work has become Hatton Road.

What does come across is Bobby's love for his family and his faith, as well as his gentle and kind nature. It is only right that this should be highlighted, but I would have liked to have heard what his team-mates and opponents had to say about him, and perhaps some insight into the man from his son, Bobby junior.

A pleasant enough read though, especially for the many Boro fans with one foot in the Celtic camp, but there is not anything here that most Boro fans of a certain age do not know already. ■

● You can read Shaun's 1999 **mss** interview with Bobby at:
<http://mss.dylan.org/mag/magazine/issue128/bobby.html>