

who would go to Hampden, and if Scotland were playing Northern Ireland they'd support Northern Ireland. We just thought of them as Irish regardless.

**When you did play for Scotland did you still feel proud?**

Of course, yes, but then again when England won the World Cup I was delighted as well, because Nobby Stiles and Bobby Charlton were playing, two of my team mates.

**Denis Law says it was the worst day of his life.**

I think it was a bit tongue-in-cheek. It's quite funny as well that the majority of players who played for United aren't from Manchester but have never left the place. It's because it's a nice place to live. It's pretty easy going, the people are friendly. They don't annoy you in Manchester. See when Paul Gascoigne went to Glasgow and took that guy Jimmy Five Bellies with him, I said I hope that Jimmy Five Bellies can fight, because he's going to get challenged everywhere he goes.

**How did you find playing in Glasgow?**

If you go out on a Saturday night in Glasgow and you play for Celtic, they come up to you straight away, and if you get beat they fucking give you a bollocking. Celtic are a great club, smashing club. I found it alright, but sometimes if they lost you didn't go out. You'd feel bad, but at the same time you'd be too embarrassed to go out.

**Do you think there's any room in the game for gentlemen?**

No. Unfortunately not. There's room for someone who's a gentlemen in a P.R. job only, but not a manager. A managers job is very difficult, because at the end of the day you've got to drop people which is difficult. You've got to tell a kid at 16 or 17 that he's not going to make it, which is the hardest thing in the world to do. Sir Matt was brilliant at

telling people they were dropped. He'd get you on a Friday morning before the team sheet was put up and talk to you about it. He was great at it.

**Do you go along with this current theory that British teams are technically inferior to European teams.**

No definitely not. I don't know why they haven't achieved success, but they're definitely not inferior technically. We've got some smashing players in this country at the moment. Very very talented players. Maybe not enough, but I think England will surprise a lot of people in the European Nations Cup.

**Do you think we still need another signing?**

I think we do. Everyone's heard about the Overmars situation, but I don't think we'll get him until the end of the season. He's a great player, and I heard that he's a United supporter. It's a shame about selling Keith Gillespie, he's a fantastic player, and it said in The News of the World that his old man cried when United sold him.

**Any predictions for this season?**

If we can get a right-winger we'll piss the championship. I still think we've got a great chance of winning it. I was very doubtful early on in the season with so many kids playing, but they've got better. As the year's gone on it's incredible. Eric's there orchestrating everything, the back four's always been solid and the goalkeepers a different class.

**We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Pat for sparing us his some of his valuable time, and also Peter Boyle for arranging the interview. Cheers compadres.**

Red Attitude Supplement

# Pat Crerand: He's Yer Man!

**I've yet to meet a red who has a bad word to say about Pat Crerand. Of all the current stable of ex-United players, he's easily the most respected by United supporters, not only for his outspoken defence of Eric, but also for his openness and willingness to talk to supporters. Born in the tough Gorbals district of Glasgow of Irish Catholic parentage, he naturally began his playing career with Celtic, before moving to United where he had a glittering career as part of United's European cup winning team. Two of Red Attitude's finest met him recently, and over a cup of tea we attempted to set the world to rights.**

**How well do you think Eric's coped since his return.**

I think he's done smashing. He's been getting better with every game. Obviously Alex has told him not to try tackling anybody. To be fair I think the away fans have been smashing, I thought that they would really try to get to him, but they've not really barracked him have they? I'll tell you a funny story about Eric. The other day he was outside the Cliff signing autographs, and someone was saying to Tom Tyrell "you know that red-haired guy who went from Liverpool to Coventry", and Eric leaned over and said "David Burrows", so that tells you how much English he knows. It's his defence mechanism. He doesn't like the media which is understandable, so he pretends not to speak the language.

**There's always a few racists that'll try to wind him up.**

Unfortunately a lot of clubs have got them as well. Are there a few follow United?

**A few but they keep there heads very low, there's just a couple of little things starting to happen lately, but there's more at other**

**clubs. You were involved in Reds Against the Nazis in the '70's?**

Yeah! and I remember seeing you at that time. I think racism in football is absolutely horrific. See United are a club of many nationalities. The government have done nothing about racism in football. I think they fucking create it. They wonder why some people have got it in for Eric when in the papers they're having a go at the French all the time.

**You led a march in support of the Miners during the 1984 strike?**

I went on a few marches. I took the view that if the miners lost, then every working class person lost. Everything that Arthur Scargill said at that time has come true.

**There's a lot of stuff surfacing at the moment about M15 and Special Branch operations**

**during that period.**

My phone's been tapped for years. Definitely! No question about it. Not to do with the miners strike, but to do with my parents being Irish. I get phone calls from Belfast and Dublin. They ask about United, how are you doing, that sort of stuff, but you can hear the phone clicking. I went to an international match in Dublin a few years ago, and one of the boys who travelled across with me was a policeman. He told me later that when he got back to Manchester he was asked what my movements were in Dublin. Now what did I do wrong in Dublin except fall over drunk? I love Dublin. It's a great city.

**What do you think of the situation in Ireland with the peace process?**

I think there's problems with it. I think the Unionists are the problem. There's been no real progress because John Major needs the backing of the Unionists. At the moment they're holding the bal-

"Now what did I do wrong in Dublin except fall down drunk"

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ance of power, but at the end of the day you've got to sit down and talk to each other.

**Did you watch that programme the other night on Celtic and Rangers. What did you think of that?**

Horrendous. Did you see that Rangers guy cutting the bread. What an idiot. Does he know how stupid he looks? He's all for the Royal Family, but you've got two members of the Royal Family getting fucked by everybody. Look at the Royal Family, they're nothing but idiots. Prince Philip he's a Greek, he was actually born in the Greek Islands. Princess Anne wants her son to play for Scotland, now really he shouldn't be allowed to play for Scotland. He should play for Greece, Germany or England! That Rangers fan has got nothing in common with these people. That's sad thing about the situation in the North of Ireland, you've had unemployed Catholics shooting unemployed Protestants and vice versa for the last 80 years.

**Have you ever thought of getting involved in politics?**

I've been asked a few times, but I couldn't do it. It's too time-consuming. I wouldn't have the patience for it, and I'm not clever enough to know all the financial side of it. I know the difference between someone who's skint and somebody with a few bob in their pocket. I'd love to be Prime Minister for a day. The House of Lords would go straight away, The Royal Family would go straight away, and all these c\*\*ts who do nothing, but get all the money, I'd send them out working for a living.

**What did you do before you played football?**

I worked in the shipyards in Glasgow. I went for a few jobs, but that was the first one. Unfortunately there was a lot of religious bigotry those days. I'd say that it is bad now between the two football clubs and between the supporters, but in

the everyday walk of life 30 or 40 years ago it was fucking awful. The first thing they'd ask you when you went for a job was which school you went to, and if you said 'Saint something', they'd say, well you went to a Catholic school, and you'd be thrown out.

**You never fancied moving back to Glasgow?**

Well I'd got married and had kids and then grandkids here, so it was difficult. I love Manchester, I think it's a great place to live in. I like the area, the people are smashing.

**Do you think that the commercialisation of United has ruined the club?**

No, commercially the club has changed, but if I can be fair to the club they've used it. I know some fans don't like the prices, and I can understand that, but they've spent a lot of money on the new stand and players to keep them up there. A lot of other clubs are cottoning on, but then United caused them to. They can cotton on as much as they like, but they're not going to catch them as far as that side of things are concerned.

**It's made Martin Edwards unpopular with the supporters**

I don't know why, I think that's got a lot to do with Martin selling out to Michael Knighton. That's the big problem. Martin's a lovely man, he really is. I was at the derby game when the news came through about Eric hitting that cameraman, and Martin was as white as a sheet. He idolises Eric Cantona.

**There was a bad atmosphere at that game.**

It happens when you're successful that you get more people hating you, but I think when everyone hates you it brings a closeness together. I think the behaviour of United fans, particularly in Europe over the last few years has been fantastic. The atmosphere in Barcelona was tremendous.

**How did you view derby matches when you were playing for United?**

You always wanted to win them, but I wasn't a hater of City, because I wasn't from Manchester. It was different for Nobby, and I'm sure it was different for lads on the City team like Mike Doyle. At the end of the day you wanted to win because they were the team next door to you, and you used to know them all. We'd go out at night with them. Mike Summerbee was always out on a Saturday night with George. George was best man at his wedding. Mike was a big United fan, and so was his son Nicky!

**What was it like playing at the Bernabau Stadium?**

Fantastic. When you're a kid and you see all these great stadiums, you think to yourself "I'd love to play there". Real Madrid have always been a great side.

**I heard you on the radio the other day complaining about the atmosphere at Old Trafford.**

The atmosphere's dreadful. I don't think it's mainly to do with sitting down. At the Nottingham Forest game the other day the atmosphere was fantastic, and that's an all-seater stadium, but the big difference was that United got 5,000 tickets. The noise from the United support was absolutely fantastic. When you've got noise like that from away support, then the home supporters respond to it. So it creates an atmosphere. I think that when the stadiums complete and the attendance is up to 55,000, then away fans should get maybe 5,000 tickets. The club sometimes think that they've got to look after the home support, but it's not fair, because United fans always complain when they go to away matches because they don't get enough tickets.

**You don't think United should move to the National Stadium if it gets built in Manchester?**

No I think City will use it, but I think there's nothing worse than playing in a Stadium that holds 80,000 when there's only 20,000 in it. If there is a new National Stadium then it should be built in Manchester. Why should Wembley get it, they're a private company, why should we give them money to line their own pockets.

**What did you think of playing at Wembley.**

Fantastic to play in, because that's always been one of the Mecca's of football, but I think the facilities for fans are horrible. They just screw you. A cup of tea's about £2. They shouldn't be allowed to get away with it.

**Do you ever get over to Malta?**

Yeah, I was there a few years ago for there 25th anniversary, and they were inviting a player over every month. I remember when United played there in the European Cup in '67 or something. When we were coming back from the airport we were followed by a stream of cars, they never stopped tooting their horns. Every time we opened the hotel doors, about thirty people fell into the room. They're lovely people, I've got to know quite a few of them, because usually they come over God knows how many times a season. Joe comes over so often it's untrue, and big Charlie, lovely man as well.

**These days, it's a lot easier to play for the Republic of Ireland. If you had your time again would you still play for Scotland?**

I'd have played for Ireland. I wouldn't have played for Scotland. I played in Belfast against Northern Ireland and got booed by both sets of supporters. Not bad that is it? It's because I played for Celtic at the time, and they weren't very popular with some of the people there. It's quite funny, because when I was a kid in Glasgow, I lived in the Gorbals, which was about 75% Irish, and there were kids there

