



Made in Derby 2018 Profile

Brian Clough and Peter Taylor

Brian Clough and Peter Taylor. Two names that will always be associated with Derby County.

They met as young players – Brian a centre-forward and Peter a goalkeeper – at Middlesbrough FC, where they played together for six years. With a shared passion for the beautiful game they formed a friendship that would take them to the very top of English and European football.

They first joined forces as managers at Hartlepool United but it was at Derby County where the dynamic duo, as they were known, had their first taste of the big time.

Many of Derby's greatest names were signed in the Clough-Taylor era: Roy McFarland, John O'Hare, Alan Hinton, John McGovern, Willie Carlin, Dave Mackay, Colin Todd and Archie Gemmill to name a few. The two managers and their magnificent team took the Rams to the very top, winning the Division One Championship in 1972 and reaching the European Cup semi-finals.

The pair controversially resigned early in the 1973-74 season and the partnership broke up briefly, only to be reunited at Nottingham Forest in 1976 where they won many accolades, including two European Cups.

But it was at Derby County where the partnership first flourished and Taylor's daughter, Wendy Dickinson, in a biography of her father, said: "When dad and Brian arrived at the Baseball Ground in May, 1967 it was as if Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid had ridden into town, all guns blazing. These two bright young upstarts were a breath of fresh air at a club that was stuck in the past."

She said her dad was “passionate” about managing Derby and added: “My mum remembers driving down to Derby for the first time and dad said, ‘I wonder what the supporters are like?’

He later said he thought they were the best in the country.”

The success of that Derby County team affected everyone in the town and amazing results week after week sent people to work on a Monday morning with a spring in their step.

Peter Seddon, Rams fan and local writer, said “The boys of ’69, and the headier accomplishments which followed when some of the biggest clubs in football were soundly beaten, raised the national profile of Derby. Would it have been awarded city status in 1977 but for the pinpoint crosses of Alan Hinton? How many local businesses hung their success on the coat-hanger shoulders of John O’Hare?”

It is for all the reasons above that Wendy believes Clough and Taylor will always have a place in the hearts of Derby folk – “we were one big family and everyone in the town felt part of their amazing success”.

A final accolade came after the death of both men when a statue of the duo was erected outside Derby County’s Pride Park Stadium.