

## **ALAN HODGKINSON , MBE - SHEFFIELD UNITED & ENGLAND. PART 1**

**August 16 th 1936 - December 8 th 2015**

### **The Career(s) of a Goalkeeping Legend**

Alan was a legendary character in World football with an incredible 60 years in the sport - keeping goal himself and teaching others how to do it. He had in fact several careers with perhaps more accolades for his own performances on the field than due credit for his unique professional coaching at the highest levels.

#### **EARLY PLAYING CAREER**

Born in Laughton Common near Sheffield in 1936, Alan began his career at 15 with Worksop Town in the tough Midland League making his debut against Halifax Town , before signing terms as an amateur for SUFC in 1953 for a £250 transfer fee , at a time when the great Ted Burgin was United's long standing established keeper.

At 17, Alan was offered professional terms by United manager Reg Freeman and had to give up his first job as a butcher's boy at the local Co Op , accepting a wage offer of £7 per week - a small fortune in 1953. He became the regular reserve team keeper and made his first , First team appearance in a friendly fixture to celebrate the opening of the new floodlights at the Lane alongside Jimmy Hagan on April 6 th 1954.

On 28 th August 1954 - with United bottom of League One - Alan made his First team League debut away at Newcastle who were top and included Geordie hero Jackie Milburn . Hodgy featured in a famous victory 2-1 in front of over 52,000.

The presence of Burgin and Alan's own National Service , serving in the Royal Signals , restricted his appearances but his development as a keeper continued and he was selected to play on many occasions for the British Army X1 with such outstanding team mates as Duncan Edwards , Bobby Charlton, and Dave

MacKay . During this time Alan was called up for his first England U23 match against Denmark and played in many of Europe's greatest stadiums in front of huge crowds , including against Scotland at Ibrox in 1957.

## UNITED PLAYING CAREER

After Alan was de mobbed in 1957 and following the appointment of Joe Mercer as SUFC Manager in 1955 he eventually become First X1 keeper behind the famous 1960's defensive line of Cec Coldwell, Graham Shaw , Brian Richardson , Joe Shaw and Gerry Summers which first came together in 1957 and played over 2,500 combined matches together - it was a position Alan held throughout his career which spanned three decades and ended in 1971 with his final appearance in a friendly at Chesterfield on 23rd January. Alan was small for a keeper at 5'9" but a massive and sound presence in the Blades history.

Hodgy's agility , almost faultless technical positioning , brilliance , bravery and reliability meant he created many records and admirers playing for United , finally totalling an amazing 576 League appearances and 675 matches in total , second only to Joe Shaw in United's history. He also holds the record number of appearances in the FA Cup (52) in the history of the Club.

In 17 seasons of loyal service , Alan played 35 matches or more in a season on 13 occasions , missing only 26 League games between August 1957 - May 1971. Hodgy was a proud member of the United promotion winning teams to the First Division in 1961 and a decade later , in 1971 .

In 1968 , Alan was awarded a Testimonial Season and his committee staged two well attended Benefit Matches at the Lane featuring United Legends v SWFC legends followed by a First X1 game against the Owls.

He played for no other Club in his illustrious career and is remembered for having the safest hands in the game - it is difficult to imagine any keeper letting in fewer "soft goals".

Alan started his career with the likes of Jimmy Hagan, Alf Ringstead and Joe Shaw and finished with TC, Woody, Len and Ted. What a career !

## ENGLAND PLAYING CAREER

Hodgy was also an England International winning 5 Full caps and 7 Under 23 Caps , making his debut for both during 1956 - 57. In fact , he made his full England debut after just 17 games for United following his

return from Army duties , playing against Scotland at Wembley in the Home Internationals with team mates including Billy Wright , Stan Matthews , Colin Grainger of SUFC and Tom Finney.

Alan also played against Denmark , Wales and the Republic of Ireland , twice in World Cup qualifiers - he was never on the losing side for his Country .

In 1958 he was in England's World Cup squad in Sweden and in 1962 , he was in the World Cup squad in Chile as second choice to the legendary Ron Springett but did not start a match. He was also on the bench for England on another 40 occasions.

## **MANAGEMENT CAREER**

Upon Alan's retirement from keeping in 1971 , he was offered the role of 'Reserve Team Trainer - Coach' by John Harris in the Central League , a role he enjoyed for four years and won two International youth tournaments in Cyprus with his young team.

In 1975 , he accepted an offer from his long time , former United colleague , Gerry Summers to become his Assistant Manager at Gillingham Town and remained there with Gerry for 6 seasons between 1975 - 1981.

## **PROFESSIONAL GOALKEEPING CONSULTANT & COACHING CAREER**

In 1981 , Alan was a fully qualified FA Coach and realised that there was not one Club in Europe that employed a specialist goalkeeping coach. Needing to secure regular work to support his family now based in Rugby , Alan then moved onto professional coaching and initially wrote to every league Club offering his independent services - he was overwhelmed by the multiple replies and requests for his expertise .

Up to this point , Goalkeepers had no specialist technical support and mainly trained with the other outfield players - Hodgy was the first to create this support and pass it on to individuals , Clubs who contracted for his time and eventually the organisations in the game like the England FA, the Scottish FA and UEFA. He was considered an expert in his position - the 'go to man'.

Alan went on to work at numerous Club teams including Coventry with Gordon Milne , Everton , Man City , Aston Villa ,Leicester, Watford with Graham Taylor , SWFC with Trevor Francis , Oldham with Joe Royle , Gillingham and Birmingham. Alan worked for Sir Alex Ferguson at Man Utd for 7 years and is fully credited

with the key role of deciding on the potential , then the recommendation to recruit and ultimately the development of Peter Schmeichel at Old Trafford. Alan is on record as saying that in his opinion Schmeichel became ,along with Gordon Banks and Lev Yashin, one of the top three keepers there has ever been.

## **SCOTTISH COACHING CAREER**

In 1986 Andy Roxburgh - who had previously asked Alan to conduct coaching at Scottish Under 23 level - was appointed manager of Scotland and within a week he had appointed Hodgy as the permanent Scotland Goalkeeping Coach - the first International specialist goalkeeping coach.

As a member of the Management & Coaching team under Andy and then later Craig Brown , Alan was proud to be part of the National side that qualified for four major tournaments which included two World Cups ( 1990 & 1998 ) and two European Championships ( 1992 & 1996 ) and it was in his time south of the border that Hodgy was responsible for coaching & tutoring Andy Goram who emerged as one of the top keepers in world football.

In total , Alan served the Scottish FA for 202 International matches combining his work at this time between the SFA with his coaching responsibilities with Man Utd , Millwall & Oldham.

Alan became deeply involved with Scottish domestic football , becoming a full time member of the Rangers management team working for Walter Smith from 1991 /92 and being part of the Rangers organisation that eventually secured 9 consecutive Championships .

It was in 1992 whilst at Rangers , that Alan suffered a major heart problem and underwent quadruple bypass surgery which saved his life - typically he recovered and returned to coaching.

## **ALAN AND UEFA**

Alan developed his ideas for a UEFA - Approved Goalkeeping Coaching Award and with Andy Roxburgh's valued assistance , this course - which included both practical and theoretical parts for different ages & abilities - was duly accepted by the UEFA Technical Committee. It remains today the standard applicable to working with youngsters up to keepers of Premiership & International Class. It is a lasting testament to Alan's expertise in the game.

In his time , Alan went from training & coaching keepers in the mud ; to trips to France & Switzerland to conduct numerous UEFA coaching sessions ; to visits to the USA to give practical lectures for the NSL's Goalkeeping coaches.

The courses Alan staged for UEFA were essentially for goalkeepers wanting to be coaches themselves and he derived great satisfaction from enabling numerous keepers to attain their licences that in turn allowed them to become goalkeeping coaches themselves.

## **COACHING CAREER WITH ENGLAND & HIS FINAL CLUBS**

in 1981 , Alan worked with Graham Taylor and the England Under 18's and subsequently he was asked to coach the England Under 21 goalkeepers , which included Gary Bailey . England Manager Bobby Robson then asked Alan to work with both Shilton & Clemence. Whilst waiting for a possible appointment on a permanent basis from Bobby , Alan was approached by Andy Roxburgh in Scotland and Hodgy's career literally went north of the border!

After the Euros in 1996 and that memorable Wembley encounter between England & Scotland with Alan on the Scottish bench, Hodgy moved back to working in England throughout the rest of the nineties and noughties based from his family home in Rugby.

In 2002/03 , Alan was appointed a member of the Coventry City management team working for the former Scottish International Gary McAllister in Division One , before a spell at Rushden & Diamonds.

Finally , Alan moved to Oxford United at the invitation of Manager Jim Smith and then for his successor Chris Wilder , who Alan had recommended to the Club . Alan coached their outstanding keeper , Ryan Clarke when Oxford reached the National Play Off Final at Wembley on May 16 th 2010 , winning back their football league status with victory over York City (3-1) .

## **RETIREMENT FROM THE GAME**

In 2012, at the age of 76 , Hodgy announced his retirement after 60 years of involvement , ending the longest continuous association of any man in professional football in the history of the game.

Alan who had been awarded the MBE for services to the soccer in 2008, wrote his successful autobiography in 2013 titled "Between the Sticks" and enjoyed his retirement with his wife Brenda and their close family , tending his allotments in Dunchurch and visiting his beloved Bramall Lane whenever possible.

In 2014, Alan Hodgkinson was voted into United's Greatest 1960's X1 at the Clubs 125 th Anniversary awards staged at Ponds Forge , a ceremony he was unable to attend due to a period of ill health. He was also voted in the "Top 20" of all time players, being the only goalkeeper in the first eleven named players.

Alan passed away in a Coventry Hospital surrounded by his family on 8 December 2015 at the age of 79.

## SUMMARY OF A LEGEND'S CAREER(S)

Alan is credited as being the world's first full time goalkeeping coach - ANDY ROXBURGH former Scotland Manager observed that "*his 17 years for the Scottish FA was testament to the quality of his coaching , brilliantly transforming goalkeepers in Scotland to world class level "* , whilst ERIC STEELE , Manchester United's Senior Goalkeeping Coach observed that "*Alan was a very special man both on and off the field.*"

United's former owner KEVIN McCABE has commented that "Alan was a modest ,warm ,fine man and a true Blades legend ... always welcomed at Bramall Lane - his spiritual home "

From Scotland's former Manager , CRAIG BROWN

" *For 60 years Alan operated at the highest level of football - people talk of legends of sport but often this term is used without the recipient having the credibility and stature to merit such a description .*

*In the case of Alan Hodgkinson, there is absolutely no doubt he was truly deserving of the accolade."*

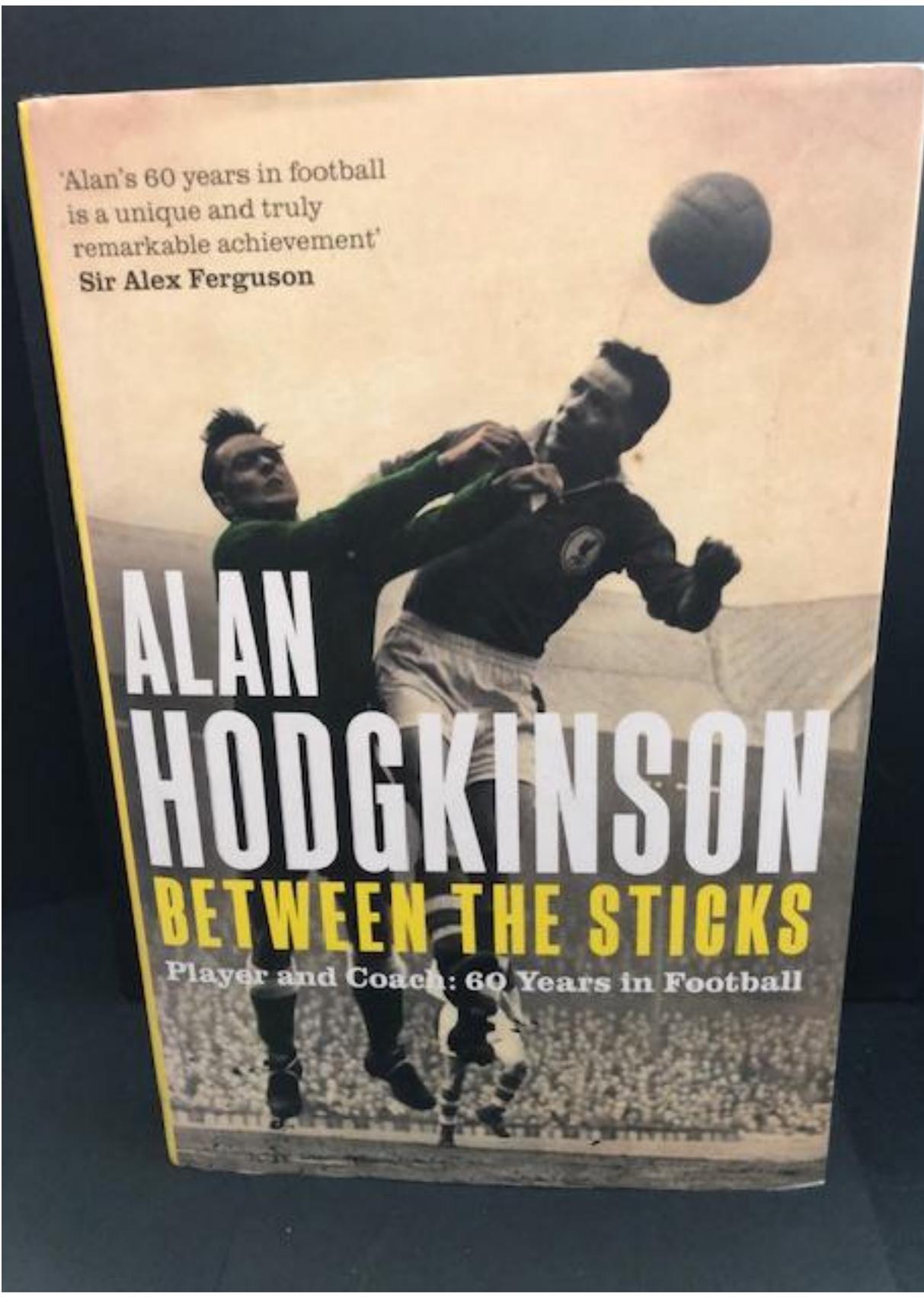
and a final word....

" *A superb goalkeeper , Hodgy was not content with that , he went on to become arguably the best goalkeeping coach there has ever been. "* GORDON BANKS

ALAN HODGKINSON 1936 - 2015 RIP

Chris Hall 17 th August 2021

'Alan's 60 years in football  
is a unique and truly  
remarkable achievement'  
Sir Alex Ferguson



# ALAN HODGKINSON

## BETWEEN THE STICKS

Player and Coach: 60 Years in Football

## ALAN HODGKINSON , MBE - SHEFFIELD UNITED & ENGLAND. PART 2

**August 16 th 1936 - December 8 th 2015**

As a young lad , I grew up in the 1960's in a sporting family dedicated to cricket in the summer and football in the winter . My first soccer hero was my dad's great friend , Alan Hodgkinson and these are my personal recollections of knowing Alan up to his sad passing on December 8th 2015 in Coventry. Several of the stories and pictures are unpublished and personal, seen & heard for the first time this morning by our Group.

### EARLY CAREER - SUFC - and the start of a friendship.

From Mike's unpublished autobiography ,

Mike recalls about meeting AH - "A former school pal from my years at the Retford Grammar School , Bob Widdowson, gained a place on the SUFC staff as the reserve team goalkeeper and it was Bob who introduced me to Alan, who with his dear wife Brenda , his two daughters Paula & Karen and son Andrew all became family friends. "Hodgy" left me four tickets at every away game for myself , Mary, Chris and then Nigel to see United play during the 1960's , right up to the end of his career in 1971.

Alan was a truly great goalkeeper and a loyal friend." MIKE HALL

I would myself meet Alan myself outside of all the away venues of the First Division when he would come out to chat pre match with us all and pass the grand stand tickets to my dad. For a lad of 10 - 15 and a fanatical fan , these moments were very special and Alan very obviously became my soccer hero.

Whilst I probably never saw Alan keep goal at his most agile best , I vividly remember two outstanding performances firstly at Hull when his two acrobatic saves from Ken Wagstaffe were incredible and his 'man of the match' efforts in the vital victory promotion chasing game at Birmingham ( 1-0 ) during his final season in 1971.

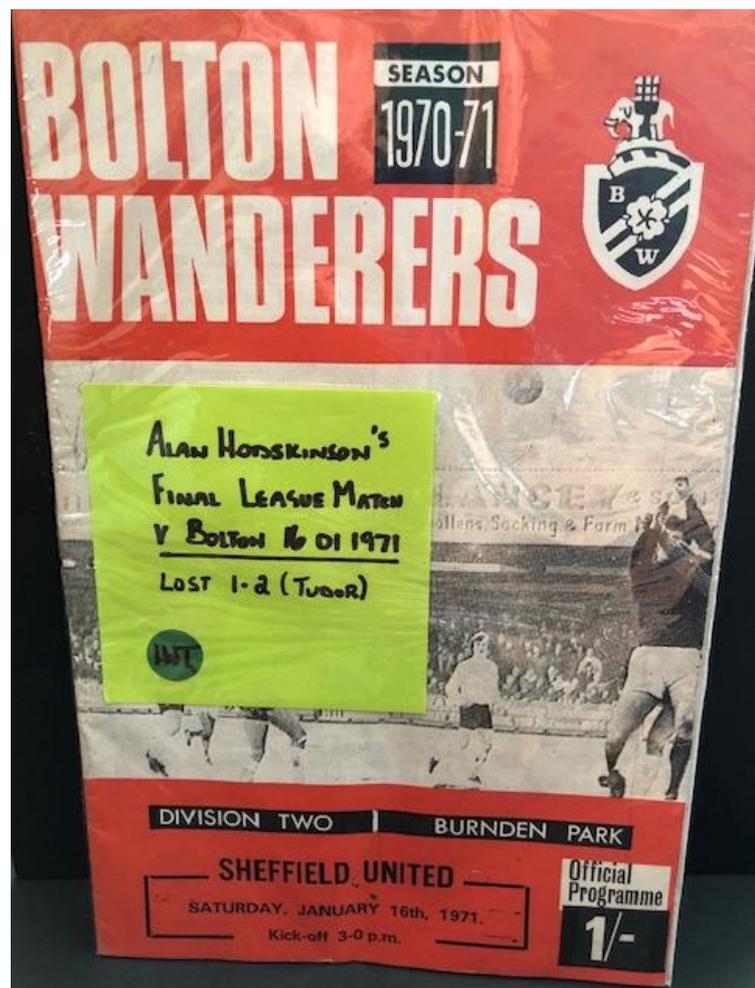
## ALAN'S BENEFIT MATCH

After 15 years dedicated service , Alan was awarded an evening Benefit match in May 1968 at Bramall Lane against the Owls , which I attended with my dad and I remember the great atmosphere with over 19,000 present to honour this loyal servant of the Blades . A couple of days afterwards Alan was informed by the Club Secretary that the nights takings of over £7,000 had " gone missing" and he was never recompensed for this disgraceful situation by United. In later years , Alan was quoted as saying that this oversight and loss was his only regret during his career at SUFC. (PROGRAMME FROM ALAN'S TESTIMONIAL MATCH )

## HIS FINAL LEAGUE MATCH & THE END OF A PLAYING CAREER

Alan played in the first 24 League games of the 1970 - 71 promotion season and I can re member what proved to be his last ever match when , as a family , we travelled to Bolton on 16 th January 1971 . This was Alan's 576 th and final League appearance over a 17 season career with United , his only professional Club

( PROGRAMME OF ALAN'S FINAL  
LEAGUE APPEARANCE)



The following week , dad took us all to Oxford's old Manor Ground for a promotion chasing game . According to Mike , Alan had no idea he was not going to play and Hodgy was cruelly axed on route on the team bus from his position between the posts . It was not until we saw the new huge figure of John Hope - transferred in by John Harris from Newcastle - running out in the green jersey that any of us realised that Alan had been dropped for the first and only time in his entire career.

Alan had to walk around the pitch in his civvies to get the trainers bench on the opposite side of the ground to the players tunnel , which meant he also had to walk behind the goal which Hope would now be defending for the first time - I remember this as one of the saddest things I have ever witnessed on a sports field and my dad cried - the only time I ever saw him do so.

At the end of a fine match which the Blades won 2-1 , he met Hodgy outside the dressing rooms and threw his arms around Alan's shoulders. It was the end of a brilliant playing career - Alan was 35 and never appeared in another league match for United. He completed a total of 675 games in all competitions.

**MY GIFT FROM ALAN** - Shortly after the Oxford experience in 1971 , dad arranged to go and see

Alan at his home in Todwick, near Sheffield. Whilst we were having tea, Alan gave myself, then aged 15, one of his first team shirt badges - a caring gesture, so typical of the man. This has always been a proud moment for myself and I have looked after what I consider to be Alan's property to this day , now framed and signed by Alan.

( FRAMED BADGE ).



Sheffield United F.C.  
1st Team Badge 1971  
presented by  
Alan Hodgkinson  
S.U.F.C. & England

In 2010, Alan also presented myself with a pair of goalkeeping gloves, dedicated " Alan Hodgkinson, MBE., SUFC and England " - priceless!



**ALAN THE CRICKETER** - Alan was a very talented wicketkeeper / batsman who played serious

local league cricket for Sheffield United C C as a batsman wicketkeeper and he shared this passion with my dad, Mike.

Hodgy arranged with my dad for an annual cricket match to be played between United and Retford C C from the late 1960's into the mid 1970's and this always featured members of the



current United First X1. ( PHOTO -

HODGY WITH MIKE, TED HEMSLEY AND KEITH JACKSON MATCH IN 1974).

In the 1975 match , I actually got to play for United as a late replacement fielder and walked out with Alan and all my other heroes - a glorious occasion for myself as you can guess ! ( TEAM PHOTO 1975 )

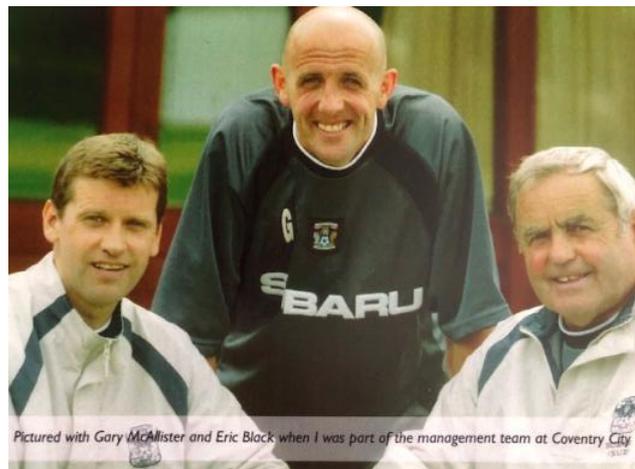
Alan continued his support of our annual charity fund raising efforts by attending several of our 'Gala Day' events at Retford C C, notably as one of 'Team Managers' in the 2002 Tournament.



( PHOTO OF ALAN , CHRIS TOLLEY OF NOTTS AND RICHARD KETTLEBOROUGH back, left with my own team)

### HODGY WITH COVENTRY CITY 2003 - Whilst working at Rangers and on Scotland duty

with the National team , our meet ups with Alan were more restricted by distance , but we enjoyed a brilliant day out as his guests in 2003 when he was with Coventry City working for Player Manager , Gary McAllister . We joined Alan pre match to see at first hand his warm up sessions with his goalkeepers and later in the Directors facilities to talk about the team's performance in this match against Grimsby Town. His energy for the game was undiminished and inspiring .



Pictured with Gary McAllister and Eric Black when I was part of the management team at Coventry City

(HODGY AS PART OF THE McALLISTER MANAGEMENT TEAM, SIGNED MATCH PROG. AND PHOTOS OF ALAN).

Around this same time , Alan accepted a SUFC invitation to visit the 'Hall of Fame' Museum on a match day and we met Alan & Brenda for a memorable afternoon reliving older memories as well as what the future might hold in his Coaching career.

( ALAN'S BUSINESS CARD; PHOTO FROM THE 'HALL OF FAME' VISIT, CIRCA 2003 )



## HODGY AT WEMBLEY - AGAIN ! On May 16th

2010, Alan - as goalkeeping coach now working for Chris Wilder at Oxford United - found himself at Wembley once more as Oxford took on York City in the National Conference play off Final.



Generously, Alan invited both myself and Christine to be his guests and we became Oxford fans for the day cheering them on to a 3-1 victory and a return to League Football. It was a glorious & emotional day for Hodgy and we celebrated at the nearby Hilton Hotel with the Oxford team and met Chris Wilder for the first time.

(OXFORD SCARF: WEMBLEY TICKET AND VIP AFTER MATCH TICKET / TROPHY )

I managed a decent photo of Alan leaving the field pre match and presented this to him a few weeks later on a visit to his home - we were both very touched to see that this framed item was already hanging in a pride of place in his memorabilia packed study (FINAL PROGRAMME AND PHOTOS )



**A CAR PARK in BANBURY** - During his six years at Oxford, we met up with Alan and Brenda on several occasions at Alan's home in Dunchurch either for a chat or a meal in the village, but one chance meeting occurred in a car park in nearby Banbury. As I was waiting to go to a business appointment, a car pulled up and the unknown driver blew his horn to get my attention - it was Hodgy fully kitted out and ready to meet his goalkeepers, Ryan Clarke and Wayne Brown for another session at Oxford's nearby training facility. I nearly jumped out of my skin and then had a brilliant conversation with Alan before we both left to go to our respective jobs that morning ! His enthusiasm for the game & dedication to helping others shone that morning - I will never forget his cheerful and positive manner.

**HONOURS** - Alan's 5 England Full Caps were his greatest International awards whilst Hodgy was very proud of his "Player of the Year" domestic award from the SUFC Supporters Association for the 1966/67 season , in which he was an ever present in (42) and played 54 matches in total. He was near to faultless and United finished 10th in Division One.

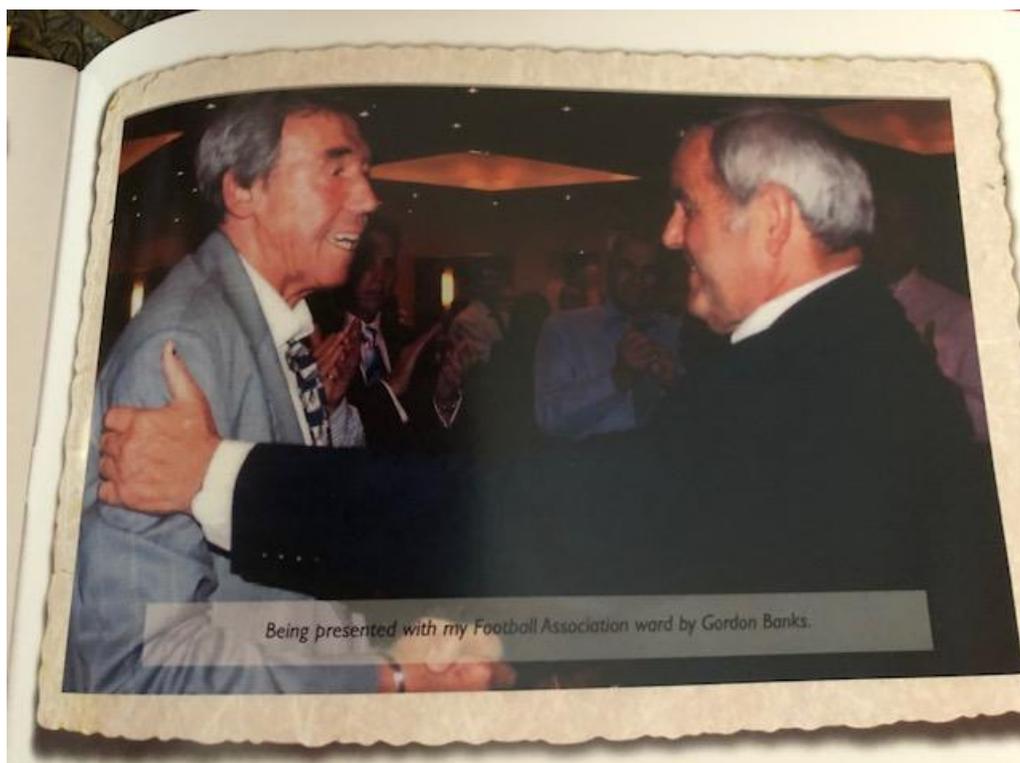


( PHOTO ALAN'S CAP V WALES 1960/61 AND PLAYER OF THE YEAR 1966/67 )

Alan received his richly deserved MBE at Buckingham Palace in the 2008 New Year Honours list for "Services to Football" - and the photograph of this presentation remains in his house to this day.



Alan's award from the FA - for all his professional Career achievements - was presented to Alan by Gordon Banks.



( PHOTO OF AH AND BANKS )

Locally, the Sheffield media, who had covered Alan's career since his transfer from Worksop Town presented Hodgy with a "Life Time Achievement" in 2013 at the Star Newspaper Group ceremony.

In 2014, Alan was voted as United's 11th greatest ever player and their greatest goalkeeper in their Top 20 of all time list , as well as receiving the accolade of being named in United's 1960's team of the decade.

No award however, could ever really, fully recognise Alan's dedicated contribution to United, England, Scotland, UEFA and the innovative role he played in the development of professional goalkeeping coaching.

## **DUNCHURCH ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION** - When Alan eventually retired from the

game in 2012 -2013 after 60 working years 'between the sticks' , he had already become an avid allotment owner in his village of Dunchuch a few miles from Rugby . He took great pride in keeping a steady flow of fruit and veg. coming to the table from his two allotments and made many new friends.

It was around this time that some of his fellow growers became aware of Alan's actual career - many of them never previously knowing of his involvement with Scotland , his own England career and the coaching work for which he had become legendary within the sport - he was simply Hodgy to them, a modest and unassuming gentleman who lived in the village but worked "away".

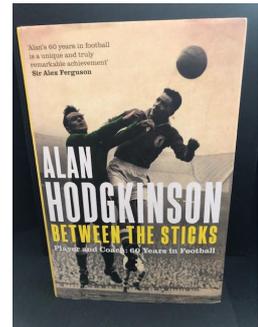
When updated facilities ( a new shed ) were needed by the Allotment Association , Alan happily agreed to organise an event at the local library to raise additional funds - it was an incredible evening that I attended with a packed audience to listen to Alan tell his tales , show unique achieve football films and talk about his career between the sticks - it was a spell bounding performance and people were shocked at just how much they didn't know about their local man ! Some months later he was invited to officially open the shed and he did so wearing his England blazer and a smile.

Simon Evans , of local printers XPD PRINT LTD , produced a limited set of three booklets for sale on the night at the library , each highlighting different aspects of Alan's domestic and International career - and each one featuring tremendous photographs mostly from Alan's own collection . These must now be quite rare and I am proud to own the set.

( SET OF THREE BOOKLETS FROM DUNCHUCH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION EVENING WITH ALAN , MBE )

## **AN EVENING WITH ALAN HODGKINSON MBE - On May**

9th 2013 at Bramhall Lane, Alan staged the launch of his autobiography - "**Between the Sticks**" - the definitive story of a life spent in football spanning 60 years. It is a remarkable book about a truly amazing career. ( SIGNED BOOK )



Mike and myself were privileged to be present that night and we received our personally dedicated copies from Hodgy after a fascinating "Q & A" session in the Platinum Suite.



( PHOTOGRAPH OF HODGY , MJ AND CJ AT BOOK LAUNCH)

Alan's book includes several accolades from the many Managers and players he had worked with

" A superb goalkeeper , Hodgy was not content with that, he went on to become arguably the best goalkeeping coach there has ever been. " GORDON BANKS

" It was said that I developed into a 'world class' goalkeeper . If that's true , then I owe it all to Alan Hodgkinson, the best goalkeeping coach in the world. ANDY GORAM Rangers & Scotland "

"Alan was my goalkeeping coach and played a highly significant role in my career at Man. Utd.

He offered me the benefit of his unparalleled expertise & experience . I shall be forever grateful to him "

PETER SCHMEICHEL Denmark & Man Utd.

"Alan was the first professional goalkeeping coach and I made one of the my best ever managerial decisions when I appointed him as Watford's goalkeeping coach in 1981 - he was a top class keeper who became a top class coach but, just as importantly , he is a top class man." GRAHAM TAYLOR

**DAD'S 80TH BIRTHDAY - MAY 29TH 2015** - One evening in early 2015, I received a

call from Alan - as was his habit - just to have a chat about United, the state of the game & other family related matters. We agreed that he and Brenda could make the journey to Retford for my dad's 80th Birthday party in May which was a beautiful gesture by such a loyal friend , not in the best of health .

When he arrived late after a difficult journey , we all appreciated the huge effort he had made , having insisted that he would drive to see his great friend Mike and meet up with several other mutual friends who were attending , including Liz & Tony Currie. It would be the final time that I would see Alan before his death in December of the same year.



(PHOTOGRAPHS OF MJ WITH HODGY AND TC - 29th MAY 2015)

## ALAN'S DEATH 08 12 2015 - COVENTRY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - Alan

continued to suffer poor health and was admitted to hospital in the latter part of 2015. I arranged my business meetings around getting to see him and went to Coventry University Hospital on December 8 th only to find his close family already attending his bedside for probably the final time .

I was overcome with sadness and thought I had intervened at the worst of all times . I was reassured by his daughters that they were just pleased to see a friend of their fathers and we all left the ward together after visiting Alan.

Before I had actually left the hospital car park, I received a call - I think it was from TC - that Alan had passed away.

It was a dreadful drive home.

## TRIBUTES TO HODGY - SUFC V COVENTRY, SAT. 13 TH DEC. 2015

A sheer coincidence occurred for the tribute to Alan at the next available match day at the Lane following his passing when on Saturday 13th December, the opposition were Coventry City, one of the first Clubs he had worked for so hard under Gordon Milne and then later, for Gary McAllister.

United invited all of Alan's family with Brenda to attend and floral tributes were laid in the kop goalmouth by TC and Len pre match , whilst a massive flag featuring Alan's No 1 shirt was displayed at the Bramall Lane end.

One of several heartfelt tributes in the match programme was from the Scottish International goalkeeper , Andy Goram who Alan had coached from early days at Oldham to the national team

" So sad the news of my lifetime coach passing away - he was my guru and a father to me ... a legend

Thoughts with you Brenda "

## ALAN'S FUNERAL - St. Peter's Church , Dunchurch 23 rd Dec. 2015

As invited guests of Brenda, my family attended Alan's funeral at his Church in Dunchurch along with a large & respectful gathering of friends , former team mates and representatives from the world of football. This included amongst many others Kevin & Sandra McCabe, TC & Len, Chris Wilder, Mick Jones, Steve Ogrizovic of Coventry, Jim Rosenthal sports & F1 commentator and Oxford United Director ,Graham Taylor and Walter Smith ,former Rangers Manager.

Amongst the music used in the ceremony , was "Annie's Song" , "Abide with Me" and "My Way", which was indeed Alan's own personal song.

I frequently think about Alan and his long friendship with my family - I miss our phone calls and my chats at his house in Dunchurch

In 'Shoot' - or was it 'Goal' ? - Alan was once quoted as follows - I think it sums up his unique and special character well.

*" I really appreciate what SUFC have done for me over the years and giving them loyal service is one of the ways I can show my appreciation for all their efforts. If a player stays with one Club he makes a lot of friends but very little money. It's a known fact that the soccer 'rovers' pick up handsome rewards. But if I had to choose between the two - I'd choose friendship "*

## **ALAN HODGKINSON , SUFC & ENGLAND - RIP**

*CHRIS HALL , representing the Hall family, friends for over 50 years*

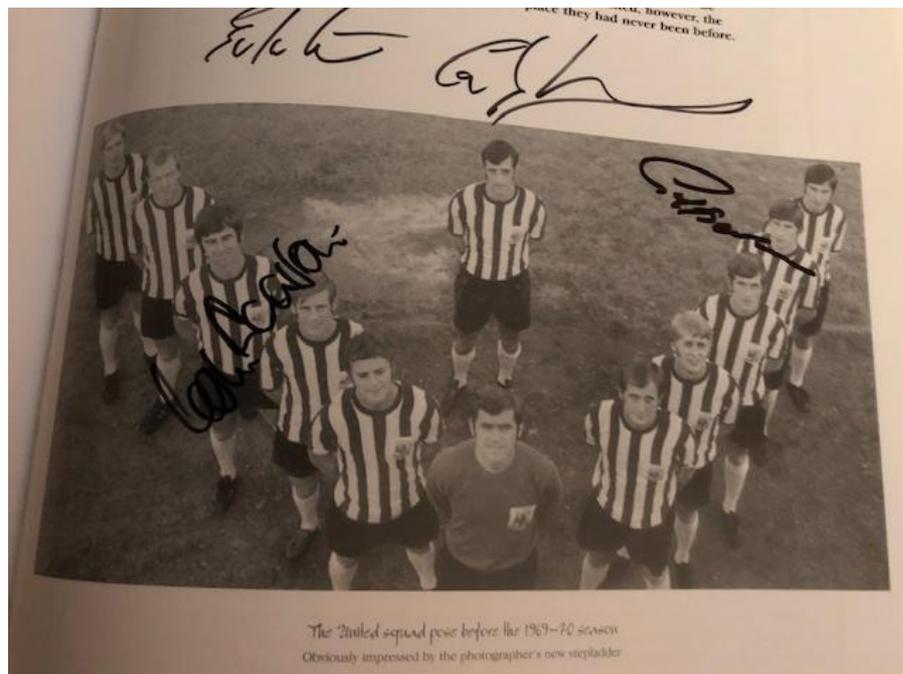
*Up the Blades Hodgy !*

*24 TH AUGUST 2021.*

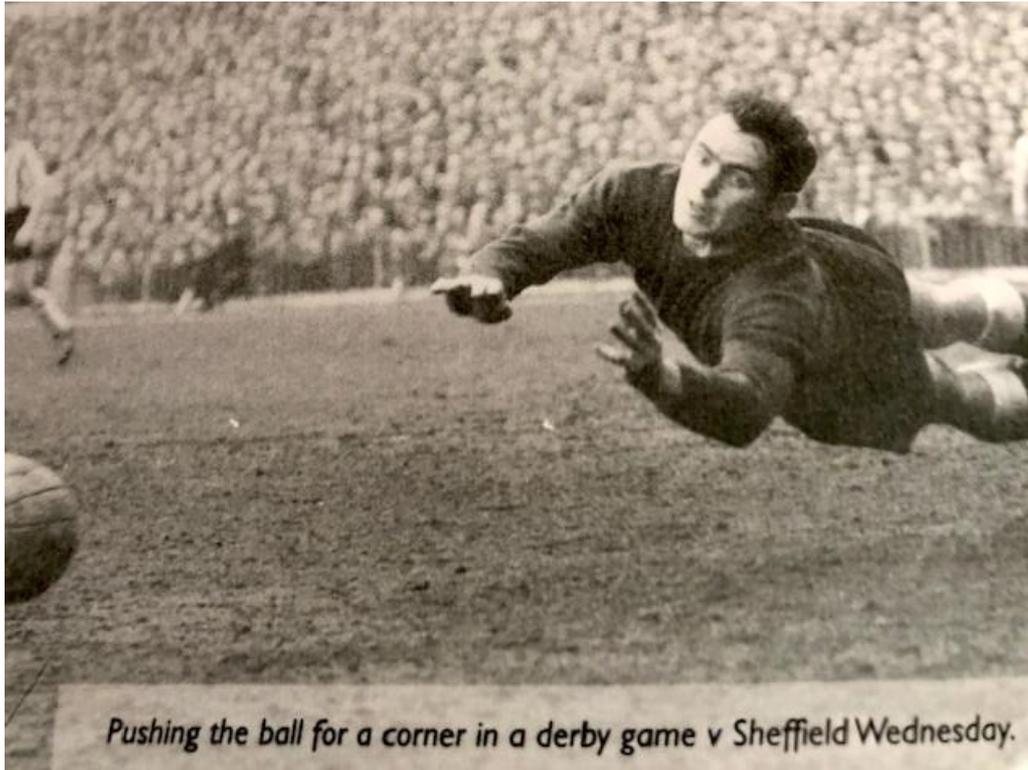
## ADDITIONAL PHOTOS



(Alan's programme collection - one for every match he ever played!)



(An unusual team photo of United 2969/70)



**(Alan in action v Wednesday in the 60's)**



**(Alan and Sir Alex sharing moments at a football event)**



(Alan in action keeping Chelsea out in 1967/68)