
Bobby Robson

Posted by Antepi Ejderha - 07-08-2008 18:20

Just read this on sportinglife, sad news as he does seem like a real gentlemen.

Former England manager Sir Bobby Robson has admitted he will lose his battle with lung cancer "sooner rather than later".

Robson has been battling a fifth bout of the illness and has accepted doctors' prognosis that he is unlikely to beat it.

Speaking to The Sun, he said: "I have accepted what they have told me and I am determined to make the most of what time I have left.

"I am going to die sooner rather than later. But then everyone has to go some time, and I have enjoyed every minute.

"I have been fortunate to survive this long. It is thanks to the doctors and their dedication."

Not much else to add is there?

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 07-08-2008 18:25

No, there isn't. Class thing for him to say as well.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by dogbeak - 07-08-2008 18:28

what a gent.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 07-08-2008 18:33

Yes Indeed. Top man, and a bastard of a way to go.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 07-08-2008 19:12

What class and grace.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 07-08-2008 19:24

I've just finished reading, "Provided you don't kiss me", literally minutes ago and Duncan Hamilton points out that Clough wouldn't have survived in the Premier League and certainly wouldn't have flourished. I agree with him. Robson was a contemporary of Clough's and he did flourish in the modern game. A decent man and a very good manager.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Cat Simon - 07-08-2008 19:33

I more or less gave up on Newcastle after they sacked Sir Bobby. The way they treated him was a disgrace. The first Cup Final I saw was Ipswich in 1978 (30 years already!) I remember running into the kitchen and shouting to my mum "Ipswichs scored!"

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Toby Gymshorts - 07-08-2008 19:47

Great man, a terrible shame.

I still have fond (vague) memories of the documentary about him. His sense of wonder at a simple door frame. Chin up, Sir Bob.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Ant van Oviedo - 07-08-2008 22:11

Very sad news, if expected and feared.

Sir Bobby Robson is a great man with enormous dignity.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Nogoalsnoglory - 08-08-2008 03:39

That's really sad. His team was everything to me for so many of my formative years.

He created teams who made watching football a pleasure.

Always had time for the sad losers who hung around every home game getting autographs pre-game at Portman Road.

Looked after his former players and always available for advice if those who went into management called up.

I wonder what might have happened had the FA been gutsy enough to offer him a new deal before the 1990 World Cup instead of driving him into the arms of PSV.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by statto99 - 08-08-2008 08:42

Had the pleasure of his company at a post-match press conference at Loftus Road after a Fulham-Newcastle game. Informative, interesting answers (not the norm in these situations) and you felt you could happily have listened to him for hours and that he would have been happy to have obliged. Questions over, he stood up and, while journos and press minders jabbered and clattered about with equipment, he was incongruously donning his traditional outdoor garb with great serenity, adjusting his scarf like a sprightly pensioner in his own hallway just off to walk the dog for an hour.

Lovely bloke.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by wingco - 08-08-2008 08:43

I think back to the pillorying he got prior to the 1990 World Cup - headlines like "Go! In The Name Of God, Go!" It's hard to fathom or recall what he did to deserve such treatment, but remembering what he actually did in that tournament, you can only salute the man's what-everyone-else-said; greatness and dignity.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by rick derris - 08-08-2008 09:06

or indeed to get thrown in the swimming pool at the end of the tournament, fully clothed by lineker et al who promptly left him there

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Tactical Genius - 08-08-2008 09:07

I echo everything about him being a gentleman an having great dignity.
But lets not try and whitewash his tenure as England manager. By 1990 world cup he was seen as a bit of a buffoon, unable to get the best out of what was seen as a talented bunch of players. Barnes and Waddle could not reproduce anything like thier club form. The team was overelient on Bryan Robson and he was unwilling to give the new talent of English football Paul Gasgoine a game as well as midfield scoring sensation David Platt.

There would have been uproar if he was offered a new contract pre Italia 90 when most people wanted him gone after Euro88.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Hofzinsler - 08-08-2008 09:25

Leaves a lump in the throat, that opening post does. To basically say what everyone else has, he always comes across as a genuinely lovely guy with loads of grace and dignity.

And it's fantastic to hear someone in his position saying something like this:

"I have been fortunate to survive this long. It is thanks to the doctors and their dedication."

...rather than saying it's all thanks to God or whatever.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by King Mob - 08-08-2008 09:39

What did the Hand of God ever do for him.

His appearance at the last (but one?) Sports Personality of the Year ceremony was incredibly moving. M'l lovely wife, who had never heard of the guy, was instantly won over by his charm, and she's (hmm... usually) a pretty good judge of character.

I hope the last few months (and I say that optimistically) of his life are as free from pain as is possible given his condition.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Harri Saer - 08-08-2008 10:04

I echo what everyone else. Having him as the guest of honour at the Cup Final was special, somebody who actually meant something as opposed to a minor royal or football administrator for a change.

There's a lovely quote (that I can't find) from Harry Pearson about how, when Lineker equalised in the 1990 WC semi, Robson did a little celebratory dance while simultaneously doing up his blazer and how it sort of summed up being English.

Still, too early for eulogies I suppose.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Bored Of Discipline - 08-08-2008 10:14

I am glad to see that I am not the only one this morning trawling out this fantastic story about Robson

Reporter to Newcastle's Shola Ameobi: 'Do you have a nickname?'

Ameobi: 'No, not really'

Reporter: 'So what does Bobby Robson call you?'

Ameobi: 'Carl Cort.'

I second Harri's point about being guest of honour at the FA Cup Final. I was 5 rows in front of him and you could see that he was genuinely happy to be there rather than some uninterested Royal

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Bored Of Discipline - 08-08-2008 10:19

Echoing Fausto, I have just finished re-reading "Walking On Water" and Clough is very generous with his compliments about Robson which is telling considering (I imagine) they were chalk and cheese as personalities.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 08-08-2008 12:07

wingco wrote:

I think back to the pillorying he got prior to the 1990 World Cup - headlines like "Go! In The Name Of God, Go!" It's hard to fathom or recall what he did to deserve such treatment

It began in earnest with the two bad results at the beginning of the 1986 World Cup finals. Robson then got another hammering with the three defeats at Euro 88, even though England played fairly well in the first two of them.

I remember that the Sun headline the day after the 0-0 draw with Morocco in Monterrey was: "YOU COULDN'T BEAT THE SALLY ARMY".

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by ursus arctos - 08-08-2008 12:13

That campaign was yet another in the long list of crimes against humanity bearing Terry Venables' fingerprints, wasn't it?

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 08-08-2008 12:20

1986? Can't remember.

The seeds of the tabloid campaign had been sown with the non-qualification for Euro 84, though that was no disgrace considering how good the Danes were. Admittedly Robson didn't help himself by announcing before the game in Copenhagen: "Sepp Piontek, I've picked my team and we're coming to get you."

Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 08-08-2008 12:26

Harri Saer wrote:

I echo what everyone else. Having him as the guest of honour at the Cup Final was special, somebody who actually meant something as opposed to a minor royal or football administrator for a change.

There's a lovely quote (that I can't find) from Harry Pearson about how, when Lineker equalised in the 1990 WC semi, Robson did a little celebratory dance while simultaneously doing up his blazer and how it sort of summed up being English.

Still, too early for eulogies I suppose.

I was actually going to say, isn't it quite nice that this way he more-or-less gets to read his own obituaries?

Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by ursus arctos - 08-08-2008 12:32

Hieronymus, I meant the tabloid campaign.

I always thought El Tel was whispering in his mates' ears about how "out of touch" Robson was.

Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 08-08-2008 13:26

Venables was still Barcelona manager at that stage though, so he wouldn't have been angling for Robson's job.

I'm pretty sure that he was a pundit on ITV for Mexico 86. ITV's main studio panellist that year was Emlyn Hughes.

Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by And I am the Life - 08-08-2008 13:33

It's very sad news. It's also sad that pretty much the last job he had in football was being wheeled out by the FAI to defend Steve Staunton, who lets face it was the worst international manager I've ever come across.

Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by ursus arctos - 08-08-2008 13:40

Point taken, but there were always people at Barca who weren't happy with him, and Venables has always been one to watch his back.

Then again, it's of course true that the tabs are capable of this kind of thing without any help from him.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 08-08-2008 13:45

ursus arctos wrote:

Point taken, but there were always people at Barca who weren't happy with him, and Venables has always been one to watch his back.

And of course Venables had just lost the European Cup in extremely embarrassing fashion.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by And I am the Life - 08-08-2008 13:56

robson got caught up in a ratings war didn't he. I thought it was more mckenzie vs maxwell in an effort to do him down the quickest

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by E10 Rifle - 08-08-2008 15:20

Robson was vilified around every tournament he took England too, but even the length of his tenure was a product of different times. When do you think England will next give a manager eight years?

His man-out-of-timeness was also reinforced more recently at Newcastle, where you got the sense that he was presiding over a dressing-room full of degenerates that he didn't know how to deal with. Despite - or perhaps even because of - that he's one of the game's good guys.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by tratorello - 08-08-2008 19:54

I can't even begin to put my feelings towards Sir Bobby in this post.

Football is awash with people who are described as 'legends' or 'heroes' but few of them actually are, Sir Bobby is one of the few.

It's not just thanks to his achievements as a club manager and his tenure as the second most successful England manager of all time (2nd only to another Ipswich Town legend) but also because he has always been a man of supreme dignity and class.

I met him on a couple of occasions, mainly because his brother owned the newsagent in Combes Ford (in Stowmarket) when I was a kid, he actually signed copies of his first autobiography there, I was so starstruck that I couldn't actually talk to him.

Sir Bobby, you are a true gentleman, thanks for all the wonderful memories.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by ale - 08-08-2008 23:59

"His man-out-of-timeness was also reinforced more recently at Newcastle, where you got the sense that he was presiding over a dressing-room full of degenerates that he didn't know how to deal with."

man out of timeness or not he took us to 4th 3rd and 5th in consecutive seasons...'only' finishing 5th got him the sack ...

never mind still attending SJP for Premier games he still turns up to watch the NUFC reserves...

even Ferguson was prepared to swallow his spat with the BBC and accompany him to the Sports Personality awards...

never single minded enough to win trophies on a regular basis either as a bastard of a manager or putting out a bastard of a team...

still how many managers could get a team including Titus Bramble into the Champions League...

Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by sharon - 09-08-2008 09:39

"When do you think England will next give a manager eight years?"

Well bleeding Eriksson got 6, but let's not revisit that theatre of pain.

And despite the revisionism plenty of Newcastle fans were glad to see the back of Bobby too.

It's strange, because it's obvious that Robson's been dying for some time (hence the 2007 award), and he told the Sunday Times he had terminal cancer quite a while ago, but it has to appear in block capitals in the Sun before it's news.

Best tribute you can give is donate to his charitable foundation

<http://www.sirbobbyrobsonfoundation.org.uk/>

Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Guy Potger - 09-08-2008 12:28

Will be deeply and honestly sadly missed

(But come on boys, he's not dead yet. Let's not write the eulogies quite now, eh?)

Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by godot - 09-08-2008 16:03

I remember, as a wee kiddie, reading an issue of Match magazine where Sir Bobby was given an opportunity to play one of those football manager games on a PC. His sheer amazement and delight at such a thing, and his delight that an ordinary fan could have a chance to emulate a manager always makes me chuckle to think of it.

(That and Martin O'Neill raging about someone's transfer price in the same game. "Seven million? I wouldn't give you two!")

Not quite as 'big' a memory as most here but just a little something that reinforces a popular image of Robson as the genial gentleman slightly out of time.

Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by steveeeeeeeee - 09-08-2008 17:17

Agree with Malc, he was a shambles as an England manager who gained success as a produce of fortune rather than insight.

Saying that, I have a list of heart warming stories as long as your arm from people I know in Portugal, it seems like he personally did something nice at one time or another to everybody in the country, whether it was presenting trophies to school football teams, signing autographs in restaurants or what not. He must be a really great guy.

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Re:Bobby Robson

Posted by Harri Saer - 10-08-2008 08:24

That Pearson quote;

I have always liked Robson, even during the dark days of Euro 88 when the only soft spot most people had for him was a patch of quicksand on Romney Marsh. Partly this is down to regional bias, but mainly it is because of his obvious enthusiasm for football.

And then, of course, there was his celebration of David Platt's winning goal against Belgium. This saw the then England supremo execute an exuberant hip-swinging rumba while simultaneously buttoning up his blazer, a combination of actions that to my mind sums up the contradictions of modern England more completely than any amount of Britart ever could.

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