

Do you remember that Premiership game 3rd Dec 1994 vs Aston Villa? Yes that one! Brian Little resigned and returned only days later as Villa manager, with the Filbert faithful angry and wanting blood. I recall seeing Little in the morning, on Football Focus, saying he'd got Leicester into the Premiership, the fans would understand and that wasn't expecting any animosity. Ha Ha! I thought you have no idea what's coming.

John Motson on 'Match of the Day' that night, described the Leicester fans as one of the most "venomous crowds" he'd ever encountered in his commentating career. In the Double Decker stand we were seething. Chants of "Judas, Judas" continued throughout the ninety minutes, and I joined in, happy with the biblical reference. The atmosphere at the ground was like nothing I've ever experienced.

When I got home and turned on the TV, Little was being interviewed saying it had been one of the worst days of his life and that he hadn't even got home yet. That was when it hit me. This wasn't a pantomime character I had been booing, or WWF "evil" wrestler, but a real person. This was someone with a wife, a family and a home. Immediately I asked God's forgiveness for my behaviour that day, and for my part in the abuse dished out to Mr Little. I'll never do the same again.

It's so easy, sometimes, for us to forget that players, managers, and chairmen are real people just like us. They are not robots, nor are they 2 dimensional goodies and baddies, but they have emotions just like we do. They are no different to us, just trying to do a job. Sometimes they have good days, sometimes they have bad days. Its worth us all remembering today, just in case we forget...they are all only human.

Enjoy the game. Encourage the players whatever. Be loud!
The Rev

Rich is a Pastor at Living Rock Church. His role it to be a listening ear and supportive friend to staff, coaches and players at the club. He also conducts short services in the Garden of Remembrance for bereaved supporters. Contact the club for details.

The views expressed above are the views of the author and not the views of LCFC.