

**Back in 1970 my younger brother and I decided to go to the Sheffield United match on Saturday 21st November.** Although originally from Houghton -Le-Spring we were then living in New Ollerton, Nottinghamshire, having moved there in 1962 due to the sad demise of the Durham coalfield so our Dad could continue working.



*Luxury coach travel  
70s style*

We left for the game on the Friday night departing Mansfield at midnight. The bus was operated by Hall Bros of South Shields and this was a popular route for Durham folk returning to see family back home!

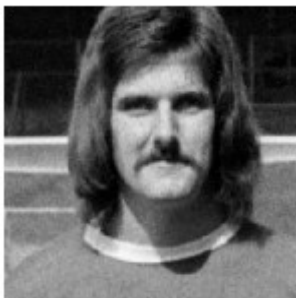
We arrived at our drop off point in Chester-Le-Street in the early hours only to discover there was a bus strike so we had no choice but to start hitchhiking to our Gran's house in Hetton. Not many taxis in those days but we couldn't have afforded one anyway!

We managed to get a lift in the back of an N.C.B. lorry (ask yer Dad) sitting in the open, which took us all the way to Hetton. After Gran had given something to eat we decided to set off walking for the match and though we did hitch a ride from Hetton to the bottom of Houghton Cut we had to walk the rest of the way to Roker.

After the game we headed back on foot (still no buses running) and as we passed the Reg Vardy garage near the turn off for Newbottle, the Sheffield Utd team bus passed us and I remember quite vividly seeing their captain Eddie Colquhoun sitting at the front.



Needless to say our Gran thought we were mad coming all that way then having to walk to the game, especially when we told her the score.....a goalless draw!



*Brian Chambers in  
his Arsenal incarnation*

Interestingly, one of the Sunderland players that day was Brian Chambers who was an unused sub in our 1973 semifinal win over Arsenal, the club he was to join a week after we won the Cup. Not being cup tied he then actually played for the Gunners in a play off match between the two losing semi finalists that took place at Highbury in August that year which Wolves went on to win 3-1, meaning that the only game he played in that season's F.A. Cup was after the Final. How many of us even remember that they used to have third place play off matches in those days!

The next day we got a lift off one of Gran's neighbours back to Chester-Le-Street to catch our return bus and even though we were shattered after all that walking, I still look back fondly at that weekend. Oh the joy of being a Sunderland supporter!!