

I just wanted to say thank you very much from my heart for what you've done for me tonight, I'm overcome by everything, it's too much.

And I've got Parkinsons now as you know and I'm buggered if it's going to get me.

I'd like to tell you a few stories about why I'm a Nondie.

I first came to East Africa in 1969 by accident

I worked for the Water Research Centre in England and I went in on a Monday morning, Monday May 1969

and Dr Allen had left a note on my desk - Richard come and see me when you get in

I was a bit late for work as usual Monday morning

9.30 went to see Dr Allen he said: "Hey boy, got a problem here. My boss has had an accident"

"He's supposed to go to Uganda next Friday, can you go instead?"

I said, "I can't go off on Friday, I got to play rugby on Saturday boy" (audience laughs)

anyway, to cut a long story short, it was my good luck because the supposed accident had been caused by his wife...

his wife had caught him in bed with somebody (audience laughs)

... and he ended up in Battle Hospital in intensive care...

Um... I won't go into the history of that, but anyway,

Alan Paver referred to that tonight when he spoke about why I'd come into East Africa

I came to Uganda, I was given a £100 travelling allowance to buy clothes

so I went up to Aquascutum in London and bought myself a DJ and a pith helmet (audience laughs)

I'd seen a Humphrey Bogart film... (audience laughs)

So that was it, I arrived in Uganda with my pith helmet and my DJ, etcetera

soon felt my eyes open

I worked for the UN, the United Nations, in Uganda

First person I know was called Forster, he did something for me, sold me a clapped out bloody Porsche (audience laughs)

... a 1966 Porsche. Good car, thanks Fozzie (* who is in the audience)

He got me playing rugby and I buggered my hand actually playing rugby, but he got me playing rugby for Kampala

and we played Impala. Impala were the big big heroes of the time, we beat them

and I remember we beat them up in the Enterprise Cup Final in 1969, great win.

So when I came to leave Uganda after a year

The UN asked me if I'd stay on and lecture at the University

so I stayed at university and lectured in Engineering to twelve town engineers in Uganda

and then Idi Amin got into power on January 26th 1971 and killed two of them

So the UN pulled me out of Uganda and I came back to, back to the Water Research Centre

and, I was given a job speaking at the open day about water supplies in East Africa,

about how they're built by the British and how they still all worked,

and I was speaking at this bash, this chap came up to me and said "We've a job in Kenya mate,

Mombasa water supply, so you want to come out and do it?" I said, "Yep, when do I leave?"

So I arrived back in Uganda on June 6th 1971 I was met by Rob Rowland and Mike Andrews at the airport

Didn't know any Nondies at the time apart from John Lloyd, Mike Walsh, Peter Lee,

but Nondies were the club where everybody loved to socialise, so I said, "Look, I'm coming back here and I'll join Nondies

So I joined Nondies along with Pat Orr who played with me at Richmond and Dave Allanson who I'd played against at Rosslyn Park

Bruce, bless him, good scrum half; David, great fly half / scrum half;

Rod, good number 8; his brother Peter who is a bugger, Michael who is a good kicker;

Clive Evans, Kit Evans who was another Evans, and myself so we had seven Evans in the Sevens team (audience laughs)

but the Lions and the Tigers were the hardest games we had. The Nondies were so strong in those days it could

split the club up into two sides, five Evans played for the Lions and us buggers played for the Tigers

and I was a Tiger. They were the hardest games we had, I remember

David Evans trying to tackle me once, I'll never forget it as long as I live...

but, it was good rugby, good fun, and Nondies went on to win everything for many years

There were some great players, Wyn Richards, Rob Rowland, sorry Rob Torkington, etc..

Rod was Captain, that's worth knowing, for the last two years in a row because, in the new,

in the new Museum, thank you for that chaps, the new museum, because Rod wouldn't have photographs taken, refused to have photographs taken

but Nondies was a great club and bless them for 100 years, 100 years, they deserve every honour they're going to get. (Pause)

Got a few notes here, I mustn't miss my notes (reads)

OK, 100 years, I've started a new blog, its, I'll refer to it ... its actually

a website called Live To Be 100 Years Old. I intend to do that

if you copy the blog, just look it up: <https://livetobe100yearsold.com/>

go onto that and you'll find out what I'm trying to do at the moment for my health

working very hard to do things there for my health and other people's health, I'm writing a book shortly

I've read 51 books since Covid started, Covid's sorted out my Parkinsons

I can now walk better than I could before, I still want to kill this bloody disease, if I don't do anything else before I'm 100 years old.

I'm going to live to be 100 (loud applause)

First 15, 16 years of my (working) life I worked for the World Bank as an engineer,

second 20 years I did 25 years with Huddy at Home Grown. We started Flamingo Holdings etc.

26 years but in 2007 I got sick, sold out the business

then I built the two hotels you know, Hemingways here and on the coast, and then a camp in the Mara

and for the last part of my life I've been stuck. I'm going to live to be 100 years old.

I'm going to teach people how to attack dementia etc. You can attack this. I promise you.

Promise you. Takes a bit of spirit. Guy called Gundry's the guy I'm gonna watch. Gundry's a hell of a bloke.

I'm going to live to be 100 years old. So I'll be here in the next 24 years don't you worry. (cheers and applause)

I think that's it

I just want to say a few thank yous, especially to the team who put this together, Lau and Andrew especially. Ross etc.

Seeing Simon Shaw and co on the TV was brilliant. Great boy. Big Nondie, could've played for Nondies. Born in East Africa. Born in Narok or somewhere, Simon Shaw.

John Inverdale, good boy...

I'm still trying to build a stadium in Cornwall for the Pirates, haven't got that sorted yet either, that's another job

I'd like to say thank you to everybody for organising this tonight, brilliant do, thank you team

Really broken hearted about what I saw tonight with that museum,