

**Ben Moore** (1987-1996) is a television journalist for *South Today* and is Nick Ahad's great friend from School (a friendship that continues today).

Ben started his career at BBC's *Look North* and is currently the Berkshire correspondent for the BBC's southern equivalent *South Today*. Ben's work involves shooting, editing and presenting his own material and as he says on the BBC website he is at 6' 5" the tallest man on the programme and the first time that he could look his guests in the eye was when interviewing the local basketball team!

Ben enjoys the local band scene in the Reading area and plays both the guitar and drums (badly he says). He keeps fit by playing cricket and still plays basketball.

Ben writes as follows:

### School Memories

My first education in the real world of journalism was when BGS's student rag *Ad Hoc* was closed down after a cartoon made fun of an English teacher. A real lesson in where the real power lies in journalism. A year later myself and another student got together to start a spin off called RAM - *the Review and Arts Magazine* with the much missed Dr Robin Sisson as the Editor in Chief. It was basically a place for students to write reviews on anything from the last school play to the latest Snoop Dogg album. Robin had a wicked sense of humour and we got away with more things than I thought we would to be honest.

### Further Education

I ended up studying Theology at Nottingham. My Dad originally thought I wanted to be a vicar, but I concentrated on comparative religion and studied Islam in depth - something that went in my favour when I became the Bradford Reporter for *Look North* in 2002. I ended up as an editor on the University magazine *Impact* and spent most of my third year working on the magazine instead of going to lectures. It paid off when we won a few awards.

Whilst at University I also started working at BBC Radio Nottingham at weekends. It was unpaid for months until a Broadcast Assistant left and I took his job. That Broadcast Assistant was Richard Bacon who'd just gone to present *Blue Peter*. Sadly my next career move was less of a meteoric rise to fame....I went to BBC Radio Leeds for the Summer then onto a postgraduate degree in Broadcast Journalism at City University.

### How I got into Journalism

Blagging, working for free and never saying no to a shift I really don't think I'd have the energy to do it all again. Graduates coming out of University now have it really hard trying to get a job in journalism despite, I think, being more aware and much more technically savvy than I was.

I ended up working for ITN radio news whilst on my City course and from there I got onto the BBC News trainee scheme. I got my first job as a production journalist at BBC *Look North* in 2001.

### Notable Stories covered

The Bradford Riots, the Selby Rail crash, The Bowyer/ Woodgate Leeds United trial, the 60th and later the 65th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, the last World Cup in Germany (I've not been so lucky this year), the after effects of the Tsunami in Sri Lanka, Harry Redknapp leaving Portsmouth FC and the club's subsequent troubles, interviewing the last three surviving soldiers from the First World War are the first ones that spring to mind. You end up doing so many, fleeting stories that you forget what you've done from week to week. However I have yet to blag the ultimate story - joining the BBC team covering the Ashes.

### Amusing Stories

I got drenched with a bucket of water by a roadie seconds before I went live with the Arctic Monkeys at the Leeds Festival in 2005 and the one my friends still rib me about is the embarrassing time I had interviewing Larry Hagman who played JR in Dallas in my early career. Suffice to say I was very hungover and he had a chronic liver disease caused by years of alcoholism.