

# '8-3 to 7-2'

**SIMON INGLIS – the Football Grounds Guy**

talks with

**LEE CHILD – the Reacher Guy**

about 58 years of following the Villa

**O**N SATURDAY APRIL 21<sup>st</sup> 1962, TWO SEVEN year old schoolboys from opposite ends of Birmingham went to Villa Park for the first time. Aston Villa were then on the rise in Division One and would finish 7<sup>th</sup>, their best season since 1955. Leicester City, the visitors, had the great Gordon Banks in goal.

Jim Grant, from Handsworth Wood, stood on the Witton End. Simon Inglis, from Moseley, sat in the Trinity Road Stand. There were 24,184 others present, but for those two boys at least the day proved to be the start of a lifelong addiction, and not only because of the freak result (Villa won 8-3).

Fifty eight years later, Jim and Simon meet for the first time via Zoom and look back on that goalfest, and at the many long and testing afternoons and evenings that would follow, following the Claret & Blue. Jim would go on to write 24 best selling Jack Reacher novels, under the name Lee Child. Simon also took up the pen, but focused on the heritage and history of football grounds, swimming pools, billiard halls and the like.

There's probably a lot these two could talk about. Publishing. King Edward's School (which they both attended). Discos at the Midlands Arts Centre. Ageing. But tonight they're going to talk mainly about the Villa. From the 8-3 in 1962 to the 7-2 in 2020.

**Webinar – Tuesday December 8<sup>th</sup>**

**from 7.00 – 8.00pm (doors open 6.45)**

**entry £8 booked via Eventbrite\***

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