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 ▲ **Business and sport:** Nigel Tomlinson and new Sheffield United manager Bryan Robson at the exhibition looking back 150 years

# A proud heritage

## Double celebration of 150 years of progress in business and sport

**S**HEFFIELD is a vibrant and interesting city – on the pitch, in the boardroom and beyond.

That's the message from 3,000 people who attended the highly successful week-long 'our150th' exhibition at the Millennium Galleries which celebrated a centenary and a half of football and business in our city.

Sheffield FC's important role as the world's first football club and the key landmarks of Sheffield Chamber of Commerce in the business world were highlighted at the exhibition, which marked both organisations' 150th anniversary this year.

I said last year I felt Sheffield was really poised to take advantage of its platform of history and a future of innovation.

The exhibition's success shows we are well underway

### By Nigel Tomlinson

Chief Executive, Sheffield Chamber of Commerce

with this – and we're determined to keep up the momentum.

The event attracted huge interest from the public – prompting an extension of opening hours to an extra day to meet the demand – and has renewed the chamber's conviction that there is a sense of pride in Sheffield heritage and regeneration, whether it be the place you live, work or study.

The success of the exhibition brought this point home to us – that Sheffield is indeed 'home' to so much.

The exhibition not only featured the FA Cup two days after Chelsea had beaten Manchester United in the final but Sheffield

United's new manager Bryan Robson also made a surprise visit to view the city's football history and meet supporters.

Schools from across the area organised special trips to view the artefacts on show, with 350 pupils learning about the city's history.

A VIP reception kicked off the launch of the exhibition ahead of the 'our150th' dinner, with MPs Clive Betts and Nick Clegg opening the exhibition to more than 100 invited guests.

But among the host of unique cups, medals and treasures from Sheffield's own prestigious football history, there were other signs of success – a board inviting comments from people on their favourite memories of Sheffield which ranged from the city's thriving music scene and university heydays to meeting wives and husbands

and setting up home here.

The exhibition, sponsored by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the Kier Group, First Group and Siemens VAI, showed the importance of the region's industrial heritage, the events which have transpired to make this great city what it is today but also, crucially, what we hope it will become in the next 15 years.

The volume of visitors to the exhibition is a sign of how interested and proud people are in the history of the city and its achievements in football, business and beyond.

And there is plenty to be proud of when viewing artefacts such as Sheffield FC's original rules of the game, a winner's medal from their 1904 Amateur Cup win and a replica of the 1966 World Cup presented to the club.

Special memorabilia from Sheffield Wednesday, Sheffield United and the Sheffield & Hallamshire County FA were also on show as well as film footage and artefacts, provided by Yorkshire Film Archive and Kelham Island Museum, and images from Sheffield's past sourced from Picture Sheffield's extensive photographic archives.

Visitors were able to view a picture story from the city's early industrial expansion, the impact of the world wars on the region and Sheffield's significant contribution to the war effort, to the modern day economy and even looking forward to what is next for the city region.

And it is this we must not lose sight of – Sheffield is proud of its heritage but is looking ahead to an even brighter future.

## Treasured memories of a city that moves with the times ...


 ▲ **Memories stirred:** Sheffield FC, 150 years of action, left; heyday of steelmaking, centre; Sheffield rocks ... Def Leppard in their pomp, right