

Lawrie gets back on the right foot after ground-breaking hip operation

Lawrie McMenemy was looking over the yard of his former Southampton striker Mick Channon along with another of the players from the halcyon days at The Dell, Alan Ball.

Lawrie, a founding father of the League Managers Association, had a new spring in his step having had a double hip operation earlier in the winter in Birmingham.

"I am standing up to my full height again," said the former Guardsman whose humour and personality have been a feature of football over the past 30 years.

Those of us who have been close to Lawrie for most of that time can testify to the pain he was in last year when he battled with Joe Jordan and Pat Jennings to give credibility to the Northern Ireland international set-up.

"There was plenty of pain from my hips and my back but we just got on with the job," Lawrie told me. "We were offered an extension to our contract with Ireland but after a lot of thought and soul-searching I decided to give the post up.

"It was then that I made a conscious decision to have my hips seen to. I had been recommended to a surgeon called Derek McMinn who has been doing an alternative type of operation to the

conventional hip replacement procedure.

"He calls his surgery hip re-surfacing and he doesn't actually break the bone but fits a rather larger ball into the existing socket which has been shaved.

"All I can say is that I went into the Nuffield in Birmingham on a Wednesday, had one hip done the next day and the other a week later and was back home within another week.

"It was John Gorman who told me about the operation. He had it done successfully as did former squash champion Jonah Barrington, who I gather is back on court after the operation by Derek McMinn.

"I would thoroughly recommend the operation to anybody suffering as I was from pain. I am still in the process of re-building my muscle strength but it really is amazing the difference it has made."

Derek McMinn has



Lawrie McMenemy feeling a new man after advanced hip replacement surgery

performed over 1,000 successful hip re-surfacing operations and the hospital which pioneered hip replacement surgery has now accepted Mr McMinn's method as being of huge benefit to hip sufferers.

