

The Beautiful Game - and more!

With the new football season underway and after a wonderfully sporting summer we thought we would pick out some books on the 'beautiful game' and others on a sporting theme.

Did you know that the phrase 'the beautiful game' for association football was first used by the famous Brazilian midfield player Didi, who played in the winning World Cup team in 1958 and 1962? It was also used in the title of Pele's autobiography **PELE: MY LIFE AND THE BEAUTIFUL GAME** (1770) which is in the adult library (Cassette only).

Getting into the school team is the aim of the game in two books by Harriet Castor. In **MILLY OF THE ROVERS** (16040 KS1/2) the main character has a killer left foot, but, she can't tell her left from her right! Milly has a plan that will help her get back on the school team as well as find a missing trophy in **MILLY'S GOLDEN GOAL** (16041 KS 1/2).

The trouble with star striker Billy Gray is that he's too busy taking ballet lessons to play football. Can he be persuaded to join the school team? Find out by reading **HOW WE GOT BACK INTO THE INTER-SCHOOLS FOOTBALL COMPETITION** (16102 KS2).

Some people will do anything to get into the team; take 11-year-old football mad Stanley for example in **THE TRANSFER** (15984 KS2) by Terence Blacker. Using his mum's computer programme he creates Lazlo, a football genius, to help his beloved team City avoid relegation.

Things go wrong when he turns **himself** into Lazlo and can't get back into his own body.

A team of 12-year-old footballers is trapped in a team photograph in 1942 in **ABE'S TEAM** (16390 KS3) by Will Gatti. When Abe sets them free he finds himself with a team who look like 50-year-old men but are still boys at heart. An 80-year-old footballer, **BILLY THE KID**, features in Michael Morpurgo's book of the same name (16161 KS1/2). In his youth Billy scored goals for Chelsea then the Second World War came along and life was never the same again.

TROUBLEMAKERS (16218 KS3) is a book with excellent match play descriptions which also deals with the bad side of football – racist hooligans. While **EXTRA TIME** (16222 KS2) and **HERE WE GO** (16095 KS3) combine football and dating.

Finally, here are some more titles on a sporting theme:

MAN IN MOTION	By Jan Mark	15850
BREAK POINT	By Rosie Rushton	16389
LIFT OFF	By Hazel Townson	16164
THE DARE GAME	By Jacqueline Wilson	16183

Denise James