

THE Blizzard

THE FOOTBALL QUARTERLY / ISSUE FORTY-ONE



Below are extracts from each of the pieces featured.

🔗 Aleks Eror

The President Ultra

Aleksandar Vučić and the uneasy relationship between football and politics in Serbia

“To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the riot, the Belgrade-based news weekly Vreme ran a feature that looked back on the events and spoke to several supporters who claimed to have been there as witnesses. One of them was the Zvezda fanatic Aleksandar Vučić, who convincingly retold the granular details of his trip to Zagreb in the spring of 1990.”

🔗 Heather McKinlay

Out of the Frying Pan

How escaping Roland Duchâtelet took Charlton to the edge of extinction

“Groggy Friday mornings at the end of November a year apart bookmark this tale of the shenanigans surrounding Charlton Athletic. For outsiders, the drama of relegation in the final minutes of the disrupted 2020 season may be all they really noticed of the Addicks, left in the lurch by their star striker Lyle Taylor’s refusal to play after the Covid break. But that on-pitch disappointment felt like a sideshow to traumatised fans amid many months of off-pitch turmoil. We seriously feared that we could be on the Bury path to expulsion or even extinction.”

🔗 Reiss Tigwell

The Forgotten Founder

Preußen Münster played in the first Bundesliga season. Where are they now?

“There’s a football club here. A professional one. But not many outside Germany know about it. At least not anymore. And why would they? They compete in the Regionalliga West – one of five divisions that make up the 102-team fourth tier. The league structure

at this level is labyrinthine. The champions of three divisions are automatically promoted, while the two remaining clubs participate in a post-season promotion play-off for the fourth place. As of 2019, the West and Südwest divisions are guaranteed an automatic promotion spot, while the two remaining places alternate between leagues, season by season.”

 Ewan Flynn

The Liar

Oxford United, Derby County and the rise and fall of Robert Maxwell

“Robert Maxwell was not the type to accept defeat. By fair means or foul, he would soon become one of the world’s most powerful and wealthy men – or so it seemed. Football was to play a starring role in this most spectacular of comebacks.”

 Stuart Roy Clarke

Capturing Covid

Chronicling the highs and lows of football fandom in an unprecedented year

“The Homes of Football 20-21 was created by Amazon Prime Video and the football photographer Stuart Roy Clarke to chronicle the highs and lows of football fandom in an unprecedented year. The images showcase the passion inside the homes of football fans from every Premier League club during the 2020-21 season.”

 Gunnar Persson

The Professionals

Oscar Berndtson, Per Kaufeldt and their groundbreaking adventures in France

“Being an only child, I have often wondered what it would have been like to grow up in a large family, surrounded by replicants of the same stem. Per Kaufeldt knew all about it. In his family it was the way of life. His father Frans was one of twelve siblings, his mother Johanna had three brothers and six sisters. Per was one of their twelve kids, born between 1893 and 1914. Per came along in 1902, as their fourth child.”

🔍 **Bill Hern and David Gleave**

An Effective Aggressor

The story of Willie Clarke, the first black goalscorer in the Football League

“William Gibb Clarke was known as Billy to his family and Willie to his friends but to fans and the media he was all too often routinely referred to as ‘Darkie’ or ‘Darky’. This, we are asked to believe, was meant as a term of endearment. Whether he received it that way is not recorded.”

🔍 **Thore Haugstad**

Tainted Gold

Nicolae Ceaușescu and the curious high point of Romanian club football

“In 1918 Nicolae Ceaușescu was born into a large peasant family in the town of Scornicești in southern Romania. His father was an abusive alcoholic. When Nicolae was 11 he ran away to Bucharest, where he began working as an apprentice shoemaker in exchange for room and board. There his boss was Alexandru Săndulescu, a member of the then-illegal Communist Party. Soon Ceaușescu joined the youth party, where his activism often landed him in prison – the place to which, his later acts considered, he should have been confined all along.”

🔍 **David Owen**

The Molesworth Hall Revolution

How a drab Cup semi-final provoked the split between the two Irish football associations

“On 25 February 1904, Dublin’s Molesworth Hall hosted the first staging of *Riders to the Sea*, a one-act play by John Millington Synge now viewed as a key work in the Irish Literary Renaissance. 17 years later, the same venue was the setting for a more private gathering which was to prove another important Irish cultural landmark.”

 Sean Cole

Damage Limitation

The inside story of Doncaster Rovers' relegation out of the League in 1997-98

"In a season quite unlike any other, Doncaster Rovers were out of their depth and sinking fast. For all the wrong reasons, their relegation from Division Three in 1998 will never be forgotten. In farcical circumstances, they conceded 113 goals and collected just 20 points. No team in Football League history has ever suffered more defeats than the 34 they did in 46 games."

 Luke Connelly

Two-headed Eagles

How the ramifications of the Greco-Turkish War continue to be felt in football

"PAOK's badge features the two-headed eagle, a symbol tracing its roots through to Roman tradition and through the Byzantine Era, chiefly used by the Palioglios dynasty. Head south of Thessaloniki, where PAOK are based, to the Greek capital of Athens and you'll notice that the badge of AEK Athens also features a double-headed eagle. This is no coincidence."

 Will Magee

Home from home

The surprising influence of Cypriot immigrants over local London football

"The oldest known photo of a football team made up of Cypriot immigrants to Britain dates back to 1957. It shows 11 players lined up on a sun-baked pitch in Moscow, socks pulled up high, shorts billowing and everyone except the referee holding a bouquet of fresh flowers.

"They are there to represent Cyprus in the Sixth World Festival of Youth and Students, an international event which drew tens of thousands of young men and women to

the Soviet Union during the relative liberalisation of the Khrushchev Thaw. While they are wearing white shirts and blue shorts, the traditional colours of their home country, many of them have travelled from London. That's because they also played for a London side: KLN 'Kypriaki Leskhi Neoleas' (Cyprus Youth Club), the first club formed by the UK's Cypriot diaspora."

🔁 **Michael Wagg**

The Magic of Mr Schmidt

How a scoreboard operator and his visual tricks embody the spirit of Stahl Brandenburg

"Daniel Schimpf wheels away in celebration to face the cheers of the 150 or so Brandenburg fans, at which point I turn away too, my back to the pitch. Not because I'm attempting a one-man Poznan celebration, nor because I don't like Daniel Schimpf – far from it – but because I don't want to miss the main action: the scoreboard updating to signal "Heim 1 – Gäste 0". I watch as Mr Schmidt – his orange hi-vis brighter than the light of the scoreboard bulbs – bolts up the steps at the back of the board, and I wait."

🔁 **Daisy Christodoulou**

The Letter and the Spirit

How recent handball controversies have made football ask what it believes law to be

"West Ham are 1-0 down with a minute to play. They hit the ball forward and Declan Rice wins a 50-50 challenge in the middle of the park. He controls the ball, bursts forward and plays in Robert Snodgrass, who slams the ball past the goalkeeper at the near post. West Ham have rescued a vital point in their battle against relegation.

"Except, of course, they haven't. About 60 seconds later, after the visiting West Ham fans have celebrated deliriously, after the players have cheered in front of them, after the Sheffield United keeper has berated himself for getting beaten at the near post, it becomes clear that the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) has discovered an infringement. When Rice won the ball initially, the opposition player headed the ball into his arm. It clearly is a handball, there is no doubt about that, and now it has been spotted, the goal has to be chalked off."

 **Richard Jolly**

Big Men

Rodney Marsh on Malcolm Allison's bizarre plan to improve the standard of US football

"I looked at him like he had three heads." By the 1980s, Rodney Marsh was accustomed to Malcolm Allison's eccentricities but even he was taken aback by his friend's latest brainwave. Two of the mavericks who had defined Manchester City in the 70s were inextricably linked. Marsh was the signing who, he accepts, has gone down in history as the man who cost City the title in 1972, Allison the manager who pushed for his purchase when, as the forward described it, "Joe Mercer desperately didn't want me."

 **Andrew Downie**

England 2 West Germany 3 (AET)

World Cup quarter-final, Estadio de Guanajuato, León, Mexico, 14 June 1970

"When England faced West Germany in the quarter-final of the 1970 World Cup, there was no suggestion the game would mark the end of an era. England had arrived in Mexico as defending champions and one of the favourites to retain their title. But when the final whistle went in León, England were out. Never again would they go into a major tournament expecting to win."

🔪 Scott Oliver

Content Provider

When a wealthy state buys a Portuguese club, everybody has to make compromises

“The sun was beginning to set over the West as Carlos Pessoa packed up his and his son’s fishing equipment and stowed it in the back of the Cherokee. By Lisbon’s standards, it wasn’t an especially beautiful spot, but there was something magical, even ritualistic about it for Carlos: it was here that his father had brought him when they lived in the apartment up the hill in Ajuda, catching the odd croaker but mainly talking football and allowing the sound of lapping water and the light that danced on its surface provide its hidden therapies. “Better luck next time, son,” said Carlos, ruffling the boy’s hair.”

🔪 Jo Harman

Turncoats

A selection of players who have abandoned one club to join their biggest rivals

“Harry Redknapp’s south-coast saga was the gift that kept on giving, with more plot twists than M Night Shyamalan’s back catalogue. Suspicious betting patterns, ‘illegal’ approaches and a dead duck in the post – the story had it all.

“Redknapp had pitched up at Portsmouth in 2001, initially as director of football before replacing Graham Rix as manager the following year. After avoiding relegation he led Pompey to promotion in his first full year in charge, returning the club to the top tier for the first time since 1988. He was rewarded with considerable financial backing and after bringing in the likes of Yakubu, Eyal Berkovic, Patrick Berger and Teddy Sheringham, Portsmouth finished a creditable 13th, their highest top-flight finish for 48 years.”



AN UNMISSABLE HIGHLIGHTS PACKAGE

The Best of the First Five Years features 23 brilliant essays originally published between 2011 and 2016.

Buy now at theblizzard.co.uk

Featuring:

Aleks Eror	Sean Cole
Heather McKinlay	Luke Connelly
Reiss Tigwell	Will Magee
Ewan Flynn	Michael Wagg
Stuart Roy Clarke	Daisy Christodoulou
Gunnar Persson	Richard Jolly
Bill Hern and David Gleave	Andrew Downie
Thore Haugstad	Scott Oliver
David Owen	Jo Harman

THE
Blizzard

www.theblizzard.co.uk

RRP £12.00



9 772046 682007