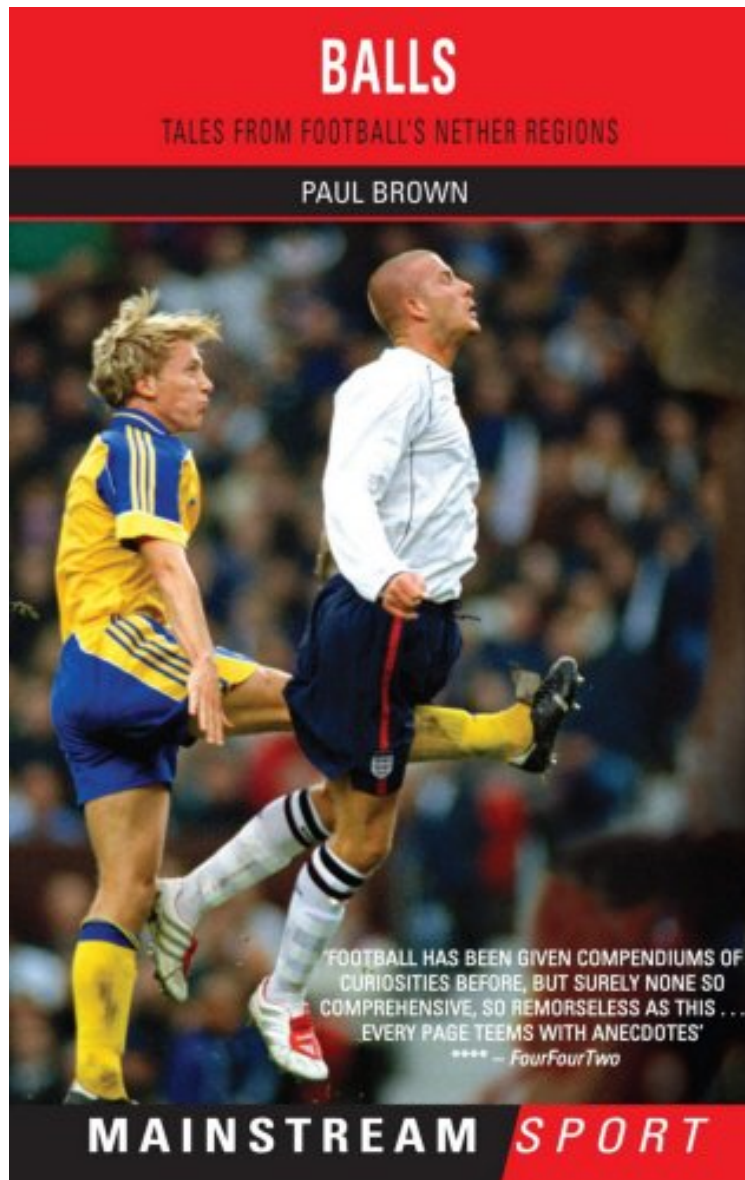


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Balls: Tales from Football's Nether Regions (Mainstream Sport)

Paul Brown

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Paul Brown : Balls: Tales from Football's Nether Regions (Mainstream Sport) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Balls: Tales from Football's Nether Regions (Mainstream Sport):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An alternative view of football, some say soccer By Aspro This is a great romp through the alternative side of the world's favourite sport. It's "an eclectic collection of amazing true stories

from the world of football, revealing the bizarre and hilarious reality behind the beautiful game." That's football, or soccer here in the US. (There is actually a great section explaining how the original US soccer league was closed down by worried baseball owners!) There are chapters on sex, drugs, violence, music and movies, and more. You'll also be able to find the answer to these questions: Who is the former top-flight footballer now living as a fully post-op transsexual? What possessed a World Cup superstar to kidnap 120 Cameroonian pygmies? Which ex-goalkeeper genuinely believes he is the Son of God? Why was a former Southampton fullback offered the throne of Albania? And whatever happened to Maradona's fake rubber [...]? If you like soccer/football, then this book is for you. It could also make those who don't like football change their minds! Recommended - and also the UK's Independent newspaper recently named it one of the sports books of the year.

Favoring left-field over legend, the book celebrates color-blind referees, colorful commentators, dodgy kits, dodgier haircuts, dangerous goal celebrations, suicidal own goals, pathetic penalty misses, God-fearing goalkeepers, gun-toting fans, and loopy matches involving animals, robots, and Nazis. Recalling the antics of wayward geniuses like Paul Gascoigne, Diego Maradona, and George Best, the book profiles soccer's craziest characters. What possessed a World Cup superstar to kidnap 120 Cameroonian pygmies? Why was a former Southampton full-back offered the throne of Albania? Was a former Everton striker really hung for stealing a sheep in Australia?

"'The best of the bunch' - Sports Books of the Year" * The Independent * "'Football has been given compendiums of curiosities before, but surely none so comprehensive, so remorseless as this . . . every page teems with anecdotes' ****" * FourFourTwo * "'One must marvel at the research which goes in to compiling a book like this, with information culled from all over the world. Full of humour and irreverence, this is one football book that is guaranteed to raise the reader's eyebrows.'" From the Inside Flap Small boys, jumpers for goalposts. Enduring image isn't it? But the so-called beautiful game is rarely so innocent, so clean-cut, or so damned romantic. Behind the dreamy facade of the world's favourite sport lies a superfluity of madness, badness and plain stupidity. Balls is an eclectic collection of amazing true stories from the world of football, revealing the bizarre and hilarious reality behind the beautiful game. Favouring left-field over legend, the book celebrates colour-blind referees, colourful commentators, dodgy kits, dodgier haircuts, footballers called 'Primrose', players with prosthetic body parts, dangerous goal celebrations, suicidal own goals, pathetic penalty misses, God-fearing goalkeepers, gun-toting fans, shocking scandals, horrendous tragedies, bung-taking managers, UFO-spotting chairmen, and loopy matches involving animals, robots and Nazis. Recalling the antics of wayward geniuses like Paul Gascoigne, Diego Maradona and George Best, the book profiles football's most colourful and craziest characters. Who is the former top-flight footballer now living as a fully post-op transsexual? What possessed a World Cup superstar to kidnap 120 Cameroonian pygmies? Which ex-goalkeeper genuinely believes he is the Son of God? Why was a former Southampton fullback offered the throne of Albania? And whatever happened to Maradona's fake rubber penis? Balls trawls through soccer history and traverses the football world to uncover brilliant tales of footballing insanity. Who was the 19th century David Beckham? Was a former Everton striker really hung for stealing a sheep in Australia? Why did a professional football team deliberately score 149 own goals in one match? What propelled El Salvador and Honduras into a full-scale Soccer War? And does FBI Most Wanted terrorist leader Osama bin Laden really support Arsenal? Humorous and irreverent, the book collects hundreds of stories together into chapters on sex, drugs, violence, rock'n'roll and more. Balls is an unashamed celebration of the mad, bad and stupid aspects of football - the greatest game in the world. About the Author Paul Brown is a freelance journalist who writes regularly for magazines such as FourFourTwo. His previous book, Black White Army, was described as a 'Geordie Fever Pitch'. He lives by the banks of the River Tyne and is a long-suffering supporter of Newcastle United.