

THE JAGS



Up for the Cup

RISING  STARS

TOM WATT

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Rising Stars UK Ltd.

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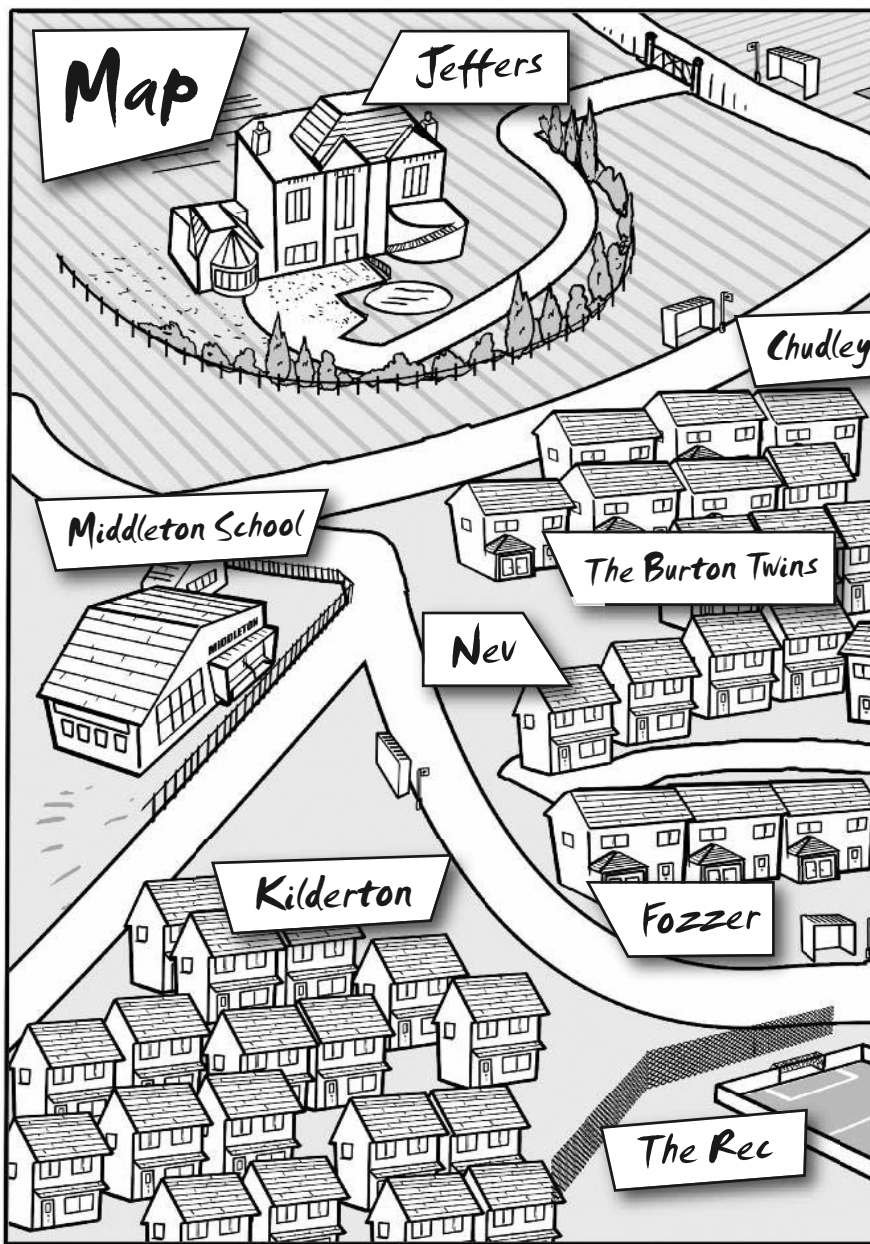
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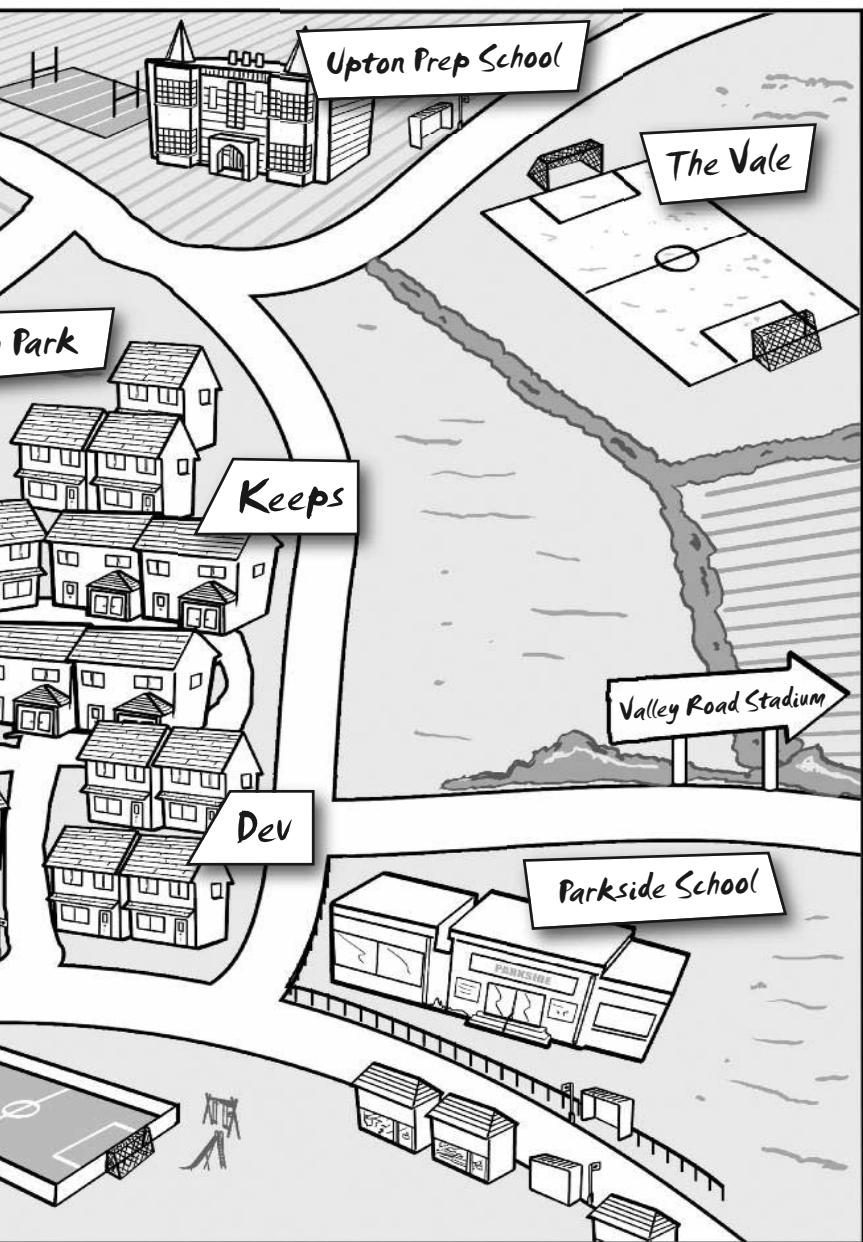
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Meet the Jags

Andy



Name: Andrew Burton

Fact: He's the Jags' captain.

Loves: Spurs

FYI: The Jags may be his mates, but they'd better not forget he's the Skipper.

Burts



Name: Terry Burton

Fact: He's Andy's twin brother.

Loves: Football, football, and more football. He's football crazy!

FYI: He's a big Arsenal fan.

Dev



Name: Ryan Devlin

Fact: He's very forgetful.

Loves: Daydreaming!

FYI: He's always covered in mud and bruises.

Fozzer



Name: Hamed Foster

Fact: He can run like crazy, but he shoots like crazy too – sometimes at the wrong goal!

Loves: Telling bad jokes.

FYI: His best friend is Nev.

Keeps



Name: Jim Ward

Fact: He's the Jags' Number One goalie – whether he likes it or not!

Loves: Trying to score from his end of the pitch.

FYI: He's the tallest member of the Jags.

Jeffers



Name: Jeffrey Gilfoyle Chapman

Fact: He's the only one of the Jags who doesn't live on the Chudley Park estate.

Loves: Being in the Jags.

FYI: He's the Jags' top goal-scorer.

Nev



Name: Denton Neville

Fact: Nev is the Jags' most talented player.

Loves: Fozzer's bad jokes.

FYI: He keeps his feet on the ground and always looks out for his football crazy mates.

Mrs Burton



Name: Pam Burton

Fact: The Burton twins' mum, and a team 'mum' for all the Jags.

Loves: Sorting out her boys.

FYI: Doesn't actually like football!

Mr Ward



Name: Jack Ward

Fact: He's Jim's dad and the Jags' coach!

Loves: Going on and on, doing his team talks.

FYI: He's taking his coaching exams.

1

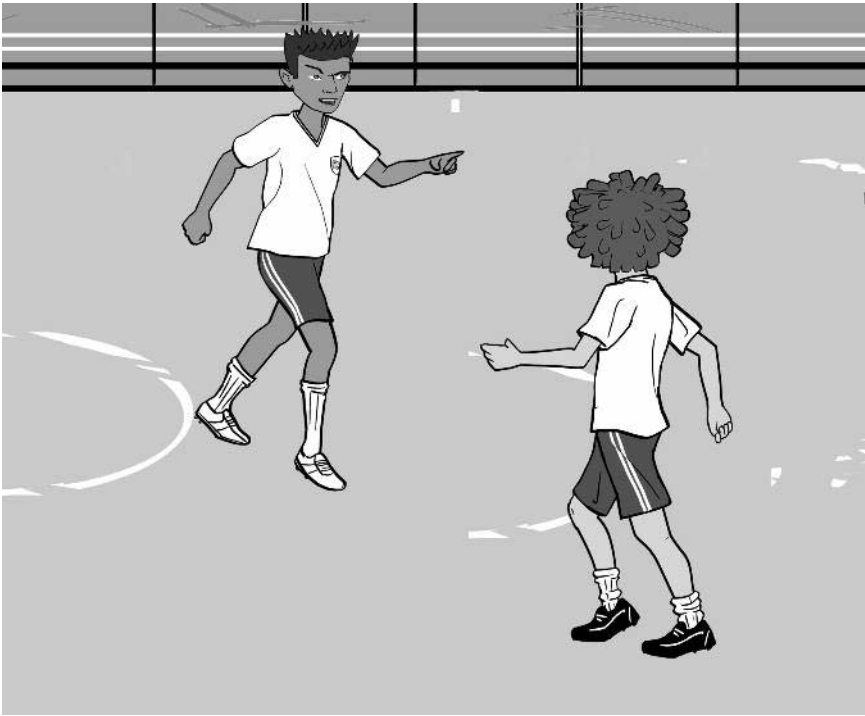
Who's Marking Who?



Every team loses games. Every player makes mistakes. I know you have to just get up and get on with it. But sometimes it's not that easy.

Fozzer Dev! Dev!

Dev All right! I hear you!



Fozzer No. That's the boy you should be marking.

Dev No. He's yours. Get back!

Fozzer You do it!

Dev Oh, no!

Fozzer That's 2-0. We'll never come back now.



Dev Why didn't you mark him?

Fozzer Why didn't *you* mark him, you mean. You're so slow, Dev. He's beating you every time!

Dev I'm slow? Why is it always me?

Fozzer Well, no time to worry now. Let's get on with the game.



Fozzer Hey, Dev. Do you know why your mum would never have Ronaldo round for dinner?

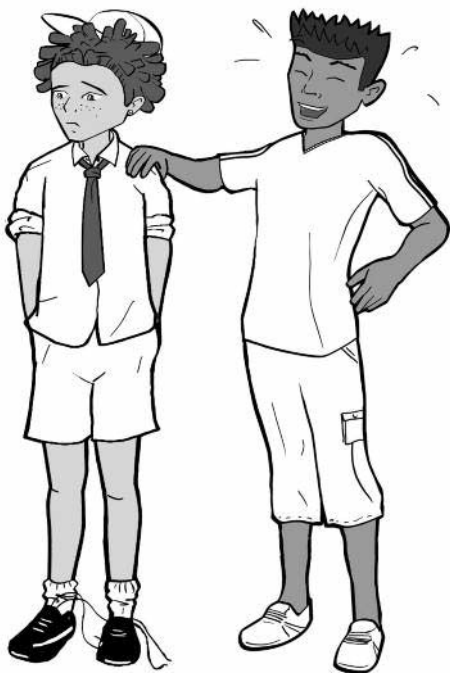
Dev Eh?

Fozzer Because he can't stop dribbling. You know – Ronaldo. He's always dribbling!

Dev I get it, Fozzer. I just don't think it's very funny.

Fozzer What about this one? What part of a football ground is never the same?

Dev Um, the changing room. I saw that one in my comic last week. Fozzer, no jokes for a minute, please.



Fozzer All right. Only a minute, though. What's up?

Dev Did you think I played badly today?

Fozzer No worse than usual, mate. You're a good player. Everybody knows that. It's just ...

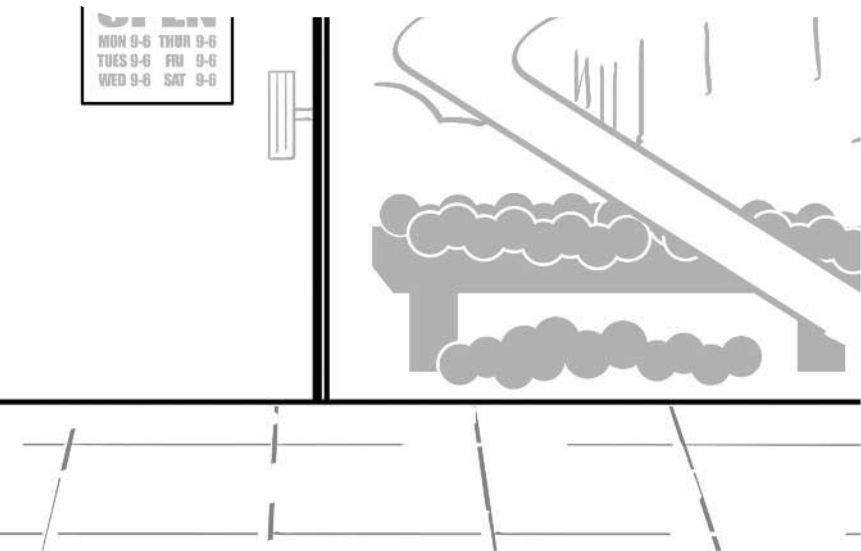
Dev Just what? Tell me, Fozzer.



Fozzer It's just that sometimes you don't seem to be thinking about the game.

Dev Was it my fault we lost today? That's what Mr Ward was saying.

Fozzer No, he wasn't. He was just talking about the second goal. Come on, your minute's up. What's a bank manager's favourite type of football match?



2

In the Dumps



The answer is fiver – side, in case you’re wondering. Fiver – side. Get it? Like money. Anyway, me and Dev went to the Rec after the game. He was really down.

Dev You’re right, I suppose.

Fozzer I know. I’m always right. What are we talking about?



Dev About why I let the team down.

Fozzer You didn't let the team down.

Dev No? But you said that sometimes I'm not thinking about the game.

Fozzer Well, we all do that a bit. I never know when I'm going to think of a joke. Sometimes it's in the middle of a match.

Dev But what should I do?

Fozzer Do what you always do. That was a great goal you scored last week.

Dev I don't think I'll get the chance. I think Mr Ward might leave me out of the five-a-side tournament next week.

Fozzer He won't do that. We're all together. We're the Jags.





Dev Yeah, maybe. But what about that goal today? He said it was down to me.

Fozzer I bet he's forgotten all about it by now.

Dev Well, I haven't. He was right. I don't know why I didn't mark that striker.

Fozzer You thought I was marking him! Look, Dev, I bet Mr Ward has forgotten. You should as well. It will all be okay tomorrow.

Dev Do you think so?

Fozzer Yes. Now, come on, let's play. If you don't kick the ball to me, I'll tell you a joke! A really bad one, too.

Dev What? Sorry, Fozzer. I was thinking about the five-a-sides next Sunday.

Fozzer There you go again! Miles away! Well, I warned you! Next joke, coming up. What should a manager do if the pitch is flooded? Bring on his subs, of course! Now, pass me the ball!





Our Name on the Cup



Dev and I go to different schools. I go to Middleton. He's at Parkside. Sometimes we meet up after school.

Dev Hi, Fozzer. Are you off out?

Fozzer No. I'm going round to my auntie's house. I'll get two dinners tonight. Fish and chips at Auntie Jackie's and then whatever Mum gets for me later. Two puddings as well!



Dev Where do you put it all? Have you got hollow legs?

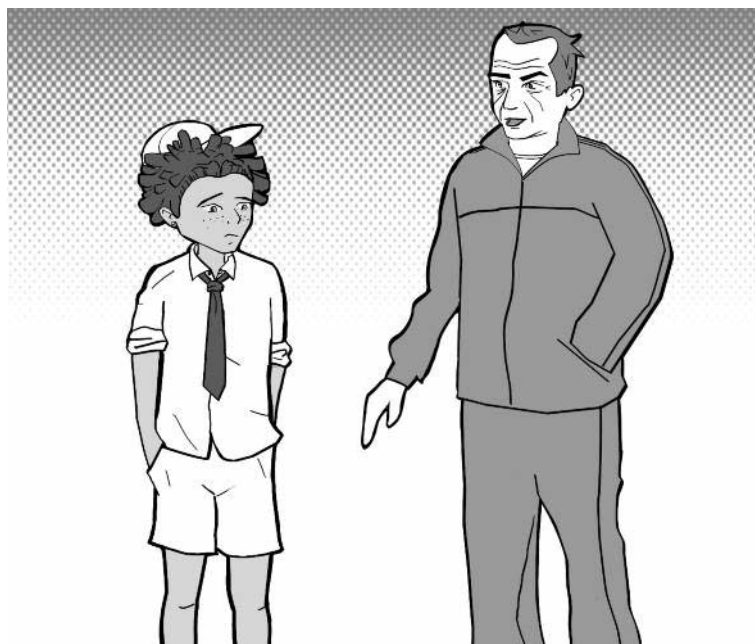
Fozzer Hollow legs? That's good, Dev. Here's one. What do you call the room where they keep school dinners?

Dev I don't know. Our dinners come on a van.

Fozzer No, no. It's a joke. Where do they keep school dinners? In a *mush* – room, of course.

Dev Oh, yeah. I see. Hey, Fozzer, what about the five-a-sides at the weekend? I was talking to Keeps today. I asked him if his dad was still angry with me about the goal last week.





Fozzer What did he say?

Dev He said his dad wasn't angry in the first place. He was just trying to talk about what happened.

Fozzer I told you not to worry.

Dev I know you did. Keeps said his dad doesn't mind when we lose. It gives him something to talk to us about.

Fozzer Maybe we should lose a few more games, then. Just to keep Mr Ward happy!

Dev Do you want to know the best bit?

Fozzer What?

Dev Mr Ward wants all of us there on Sunday. Even though it's five-a-side, he wants a full squad.

Fozzer So, you were never going to be left out, after all?

Dev No. I suppose not. We're all in it together. Like always!





Splinters



There were five other teams on Sunday. So the Jags had five games. The overall winner would take home the cup. Mr Ward called out the team to start the first game.

Fozzer

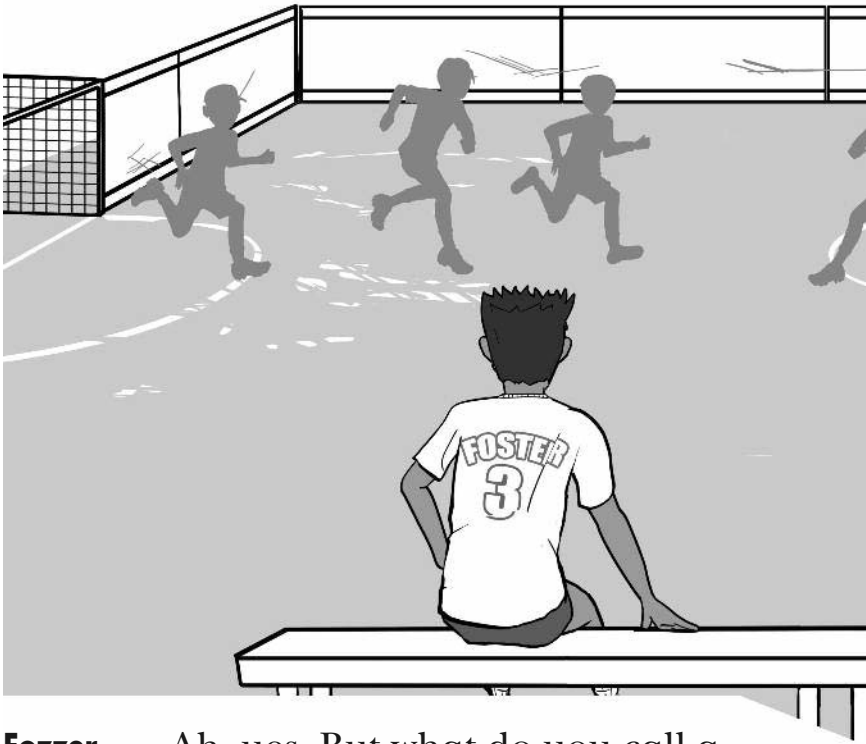
Hey, Dev. Looks like you and me on the bench. Come on. I'll tell you some jokes while we wait for our turn!

Dev I think I'd rather do a warm-up. I must have heard all your jokes by now, Fozzer.

Fozzer Okay, Dev. What do you call a man with a toilet on his head?

Dev Lou. See? I told you I'd heard them all.





Fozzer Ah, yes. But what do you call a *woman* with *two* toilets on her head?

Dev What are you on about, Fozzer?

Fozzer Lulu! Get it? Loo – loo?

Dev Shh! It's time for kick-off. Let's watch. We have to be ready to go on if Mr Ward calls us.



Fozzer Come on, Jeffers. You can do it.
Get us a hat-trick!

Dev Do you think Jeffers is our best
player?

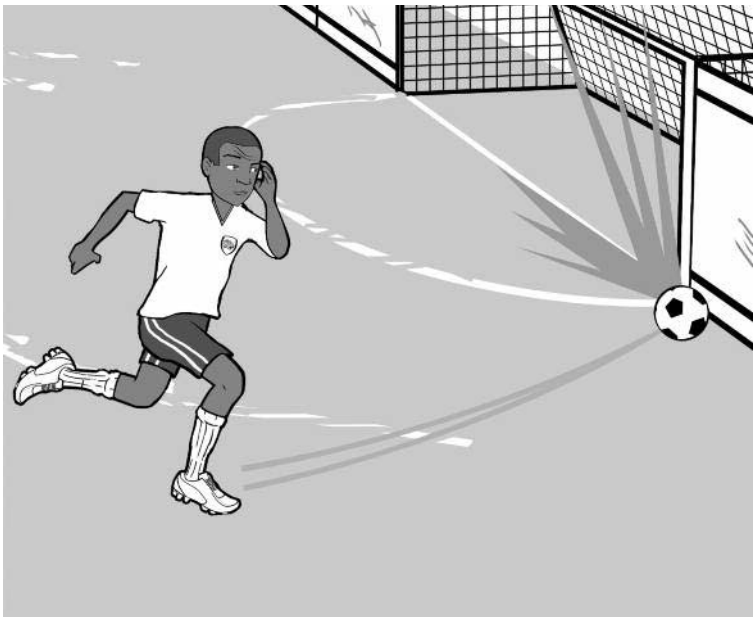
Fozzer He's the best goal-scorer,
maybe. But I think Nev's the
best all-round player.

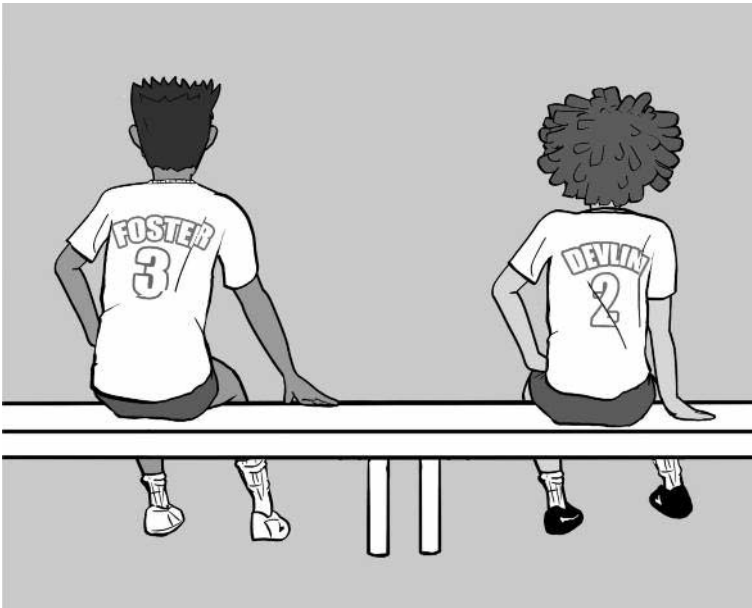
Dev Yes, maybe. But what about Andy? He always wins the ball. He's a good skipper, too.

Fozzer That's true. But haven't you forgotten somebody?

Dev Well, Burts tries hard. And Keeps is the number one in goal.

Fozzer I wasn't thinking of them, Dev. Shoot, Nev! Oh, unlucky.





Dev Who, then?

Fozzer What about me and you?

Dev Well, we're on the bench. That says it all. Good ball, Burts. Go on, Nev!

Fozzer Don't be silly. We're not subs because we're not good players.

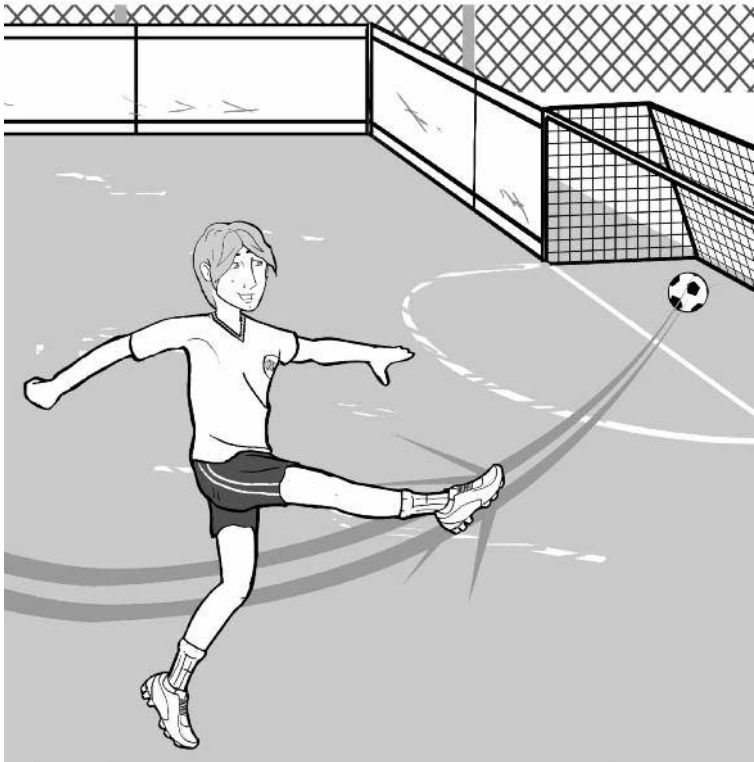
Dev Well, why then? I know Mr Ward will have picked his best team.

Fozzer

No, you're wrong. We are the Jags' secret weapons. Fozzer and Dev: the Twin Terrors. Every coach needs players who can change the game. That's us!

Dev

I'm not so sure. But never mind. Look! Go on, Jeffers!



Fozzer Shoot, Jeffers!

Dev Yes! Goal! That's 1-0 to the Jags!

Fozzer Great goal, lads! Come on, Mr Ward. Isn't it time to bring on a couple of subs?

Dev What? When we're winning? I think we may be on this bench for a while, Fozzer.





Twin Terrors!

Mr Ward kept the same team until the end of the game. The Jags won 2-0. I'd almost run out of jokes. And Dev was starting to think we were going to be subs for the rest of the day.



Dev

See, Fozzer? I told you. I bet we don't even get a game.

Fozzer Why is Mr Ward waving to us, then?

Dev We must be going on for the second game. Come on, Fozzer!

Fozzer Mr Ward must think we're good players after all, eh? What did I tell you?

The game started. I was so keen to do well that I was running all over the place. Maybe I was a bit too keen.





Fozzer Dev! Pass!

Dev I'm okay. I can dribble it out of here.

Fozzer No! Pass!

Dev Oh, no! I didn't see him there.

Fozzer Dev! What are you doing, mate?
You fouled him!

Dev I got the ball!

Fozzer Oh, yeah? So why has the ref
given a penalty?

We were 1-0 down and it was all my fault. Again. I was sure Mr Ward was going to sub me. But when I looked at him, he shouted out: "Unlucky, Dev! Keep going!" So that's what I did.



Fozzer Come on, Dev. Let's try and do something!

Dev Sorry, Fozzer. I should have listened to you.

Fozzer Don't worry. Just play.

Dev Thanks, mate. What did you say we were? The Twin Terrors? Let's go!

Fozzer Great tackle, Dev. Now pass.

Dev Keep going. I'm in the box.

Fozzer Try a volley. Here comes the ball.

Dev Got it! Yes!

Fozzer Yes! Back of the net, Dev!
Brilliant!



Dev Great pass, Fozzer.

Fozzer Just look at Mr Ward's face. I bet he's happy we're in the team now!

Dev I am, too! This is only the start, though. We can win this game, you know.



And that's what we did. Burts got a couple of goals to make it 3-1 to us. In the end, we came second in the tournament. We lost one and drew two of our other three games. But it didn't matter. We had a great time.

Dev Thanks for bringing us,
Mr Ward.

Fozzer Look, Dev. That woman has got
something for you. It's a little
cup. What does it say?

Dev See for yourself. Valley Road
Five-a-side Goal of the Day.
Great! Come on the Jags!





JAGUARS 1 HOPE WOOD 1



Our last game in the five-a-side tournament was against Hope Wood. If we won the game, we would win the cup. If Hope Wood won the game, they would win the cup.

Fozzer

I don't understand it, Dev.
What happens if it's a draw?

Dev

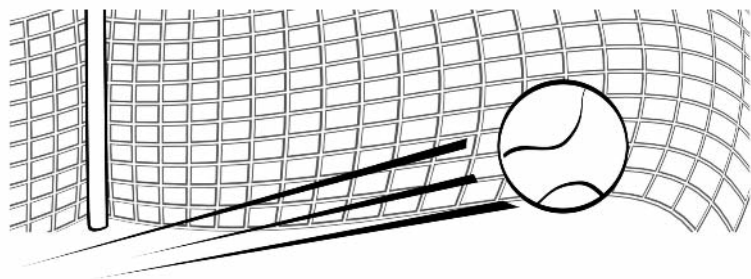
Don't worry, Fozzer. All we have to do is our best.



Fozzer Well, at least we're both playing.

Dev Get back, Fozzer.

Fozzer Oh, no. I didn't see him coming!
That's 1-0 to Hope Wood.



Dev Come on, Fozzer. Let's make up for it. There's a minute to go.

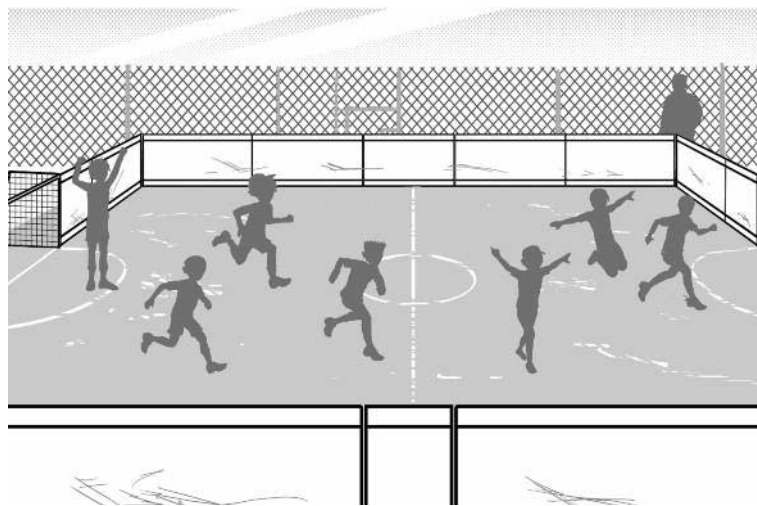
Fozzer Pass it inside, Dev.


Dev Good goal, Fozzer! That's 1-1.





It was great! We came second in the five-a-side tournament. But sometimes you don't even have to win for it to feel like you have!


Five-a-side Special

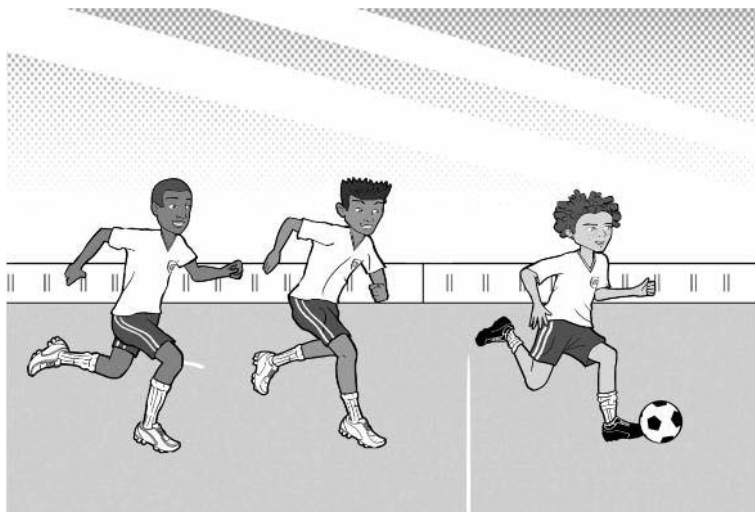


 Five-a-side football is really fun. It is played on a small pitch with small goals. The ball has to stay below head height. It is very skilful.

 The Jags train at the Rec. The Rec is set up like a five-a-side pitch. That helps make sure that the Jags are all good on the ball. They're fit, too. It's a small pitch, but you have to keep moving. There's no time to rest!

 Premier League players play 11-a-side football. But they often play five-a-side games in training. The ball moves very quickly, which keeps the players sharp. The coach may say they can only touch the ball once or twice. If they touch it more than that, the other team gets a free kick.

 When you watch the Premier League teams play, you often see them do little moves that they have learned during five-a-side games.



Five-a-side Quiz



Questions

- 1 What kind of pitch is five-a-side played on?
- 2 Why do the players rarely head the ball in five-a-side?
- 3 Why is five-a-side good training for top players?
- 4 How many a side is Premier League football?



Answers

- 1 A small pitch.
- 2 Because the ball must not go over head height.
- 3 It keeps them sharp.
- 4 11-a-side.

About the Author



Tom Watt, who wrote the Jags books, used to play a lot of five-a-side football. He is a bit too old for it now! The fewer players there are in each team, the more the players have to run around.

One time, Tom played one-versus-two, against his son and his son's friend. He could hardly walk afterwards!

THE JAGGS



Who's Got My Boots?

A New Striker

The Derby Match

Who's Washing the Kit?

The Big Deal

Star Player Wanted

Your Turn in Goal

The Team Talk

Whose Side Are You On?

Hitting the Headlines

Up for the Cup

The Own Goal



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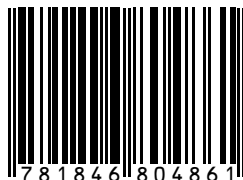


**Dev is upset. He thinks he's let the Jags down.
But will he get the chance to make up for it?**



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