

New book explores football fandom

'Football Fans in their own write' features 29 famous and not-so-famous people on what drives their passion for their football team in their own words.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, August 3, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- From Pope Francis to Bishop Libby Lane, actor Sir Tom Courtenay to film director Ken Loach, and from journalists Henry Winter to Australia's Peter Wilkins, 'Football Fans in their own write' offers a unique insight into football fandom.

The new book is a showcase of football fans describing their passion for football. What fires that passion? What keeps the flame burning?

'Football Fans in their own write' is compiled by David Picken who says he has long had the idea in his head – inspired by attending a Church service in South Australia soon after the Pope Francis was appointed Pontiff in 2013.

"Football fandom is a great leveller. Most often you are born to the club you follow and support. Traditionally, you don't get to choose," says Picken.

While this is changing in the modern era, Picken believes there is still many instances where there is "a strong thread of the club choosing you."

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Picken wrote to football fans he identified from all walks of life inviting them to write, in their own words, what drove them to support one team over another, resulting in a collection of tales that is both insightful and charming.

"I wanted to know why, for example, (British lyricist) Sir Tim Rice supports Sunderland, or (Football Australia Chairman) Chris Nikou supports South Melbourne and Liverpool. I

was delighted that they and many others were happy to share the reason behind their passion



Front cover of 'Football Fans in their own write'

for their team, or teams in some instances.”

As well as high profile clerics, artists, and football people, ‘Football Fans in their own write’ also includes stories of football fandom from volunteers, medics and politicians including the Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Lindsay Hoyle.

‘Football Fans in their own write’ can be purchased direct from [Fair Play Publishing](#) for AUD\$29.99, good bookstores, or online. All author proceeds from ‘Football Fans in their own write’ will be donated to UNICEF.

The complete list of contributors is detailed below.

Arts and Entertainment

Sir Tom Courtenay—Memories of The Tigers: Hull City

Eric Knowles—The Turfites or The Clarets: Burnley

Ken Loach—Community-Owned Football Clubs: Bath City

Lex Marinos—Derby of the Eternal Enemies: Panathinaikos vs Olimpiakos

Sir Tim Rice—Sunderland AFC

The Clerics

Pope Francis—Lay Encyclical on Sport: San Lorenzo de Almagro

Bishop Libby Lane—Football, Faith and Manchester United

Football People

Steve Darby—Devonport and The Matildas

Frank Farina—Australia: My Heart Bleeds Green and Gold

Heather Garriock—... but I Follow Hearts: Heart of Midlothian

Keith Hackett—From School Field to Wembley: Refereeing the FA Cup Final, Sheffield Wednesday and Penistone Church

Chris Nikou—Friends for Life: South Melbourne

Brendan Schwab—Unprepared: My Accidental Journey with Aston Villa

Carol Shanahan—From West Bromwich to Burslem: Port Vale

Journalists and Writers

Tim Gavel—Come on You Whites! Tottenham Hotspur

Ned Hall—The Rams: Derby County

Roy Hay—The Honest Men: Ayr United

Simon Hill—August 17, 1974: Manchester City

Angela Smith—You Can’t Change Your Team: Stoke City

Peter Wilkins—Sydney City

Henry Winter—England: Euro 2020 Reflections

The Volunteers

Eddie Jackson—Up the Vale! Port Vale

Jean Jackson—The Bay, The 'Toon and The Valiants: Whitley Bay, Newcastle United and Port Vale

Victoria Morton—Football and Love: South Hobart Football Club

The Medics

Bill Kirkup—Supporting Newcastle United

Sir Jonathan Van-Tam—The Pilgrims: Boston United FC

The Politicians

Lord David Blunkett—What Football Means to Me: Sheffield Wednesday

Sir Lindsay Hoyle—The Trotters: Bolton Wanderers

Joan Walley—Saving the Valiants: Port Vale

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