



# CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION 7

### 1 WAR AND PEACE 11

- The Christmas Truce, 1914 12
- The Elephants Who Played for Peace 18
- The Lancashire Lassies Who Changed Football 25
- The Superstar Manager Who Survived the War 36
- The War Adventures of the FA Cup Trophy 45
- WEIRD & WONDERFUL: Aston Villa's Stolen Trophies 51

### 2 OVERCOMING THE ODDS 55

- The Shepherd Boy Who Stopped Ronaldo 56
- Leicester City, the Unbelievable Season 69
- The Remarkable Rise of Queen Fara 79
- The Football Legend Loved by Everyone 87
- The Girl Who Just Wanted to Play 96
- The World Cup Star Who Saved His Best Until Last 100
- WEIRD & WONDERFUL: Beach Ball Scores the Winner! 110

### 3 AMAZING ANIMALS 113

- Pickles the Dog Detective 114
- Hennes the Goat 121
- The Dog that Saved Manchester United 124

- The Police Dog that Rescued a Team from Relegation 129
- WEIRD & WONDERFUL: Paul the Octopus 134

### 4 UNBELIEVABLE COMEBACKS 139

- The Busby Babes 140
- The Miracle of Istanbul 149
- The World's Worst Team Who Didn't Give Up 158
- Amazing Zambia, Champions of Africa 166
- WEIRD & WONDERFUL: Pelé's Lucky Shirt 174

### 5 WHO ARE YA? 177

- The One-Game Wonder 178
- Football's Greatest Conman 185
- The Fake Football Friendly 194
- The Girl They Called 'Ray' 199
- WEIRD & WONDERFUL: A Faked Death and a Game of Football 203

### 6 FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME 207

- Saving Lives on the Pitch 208
- The Trailblazer Behind the Women's World Cup 213
- The Injured Keeper Who Became an FA Cup Hero 221
- The Flying Football Stars 229
- WEIRD & WONDERFUL: An Awkward Minute's Silence 235

### CONCLUSION 237

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 238

### REFERENCES 239