

PYRAMID PASSION!



David Bauckham at home... in the away dugout at Braintree Town

Not to be out done, ECFA Magazine pulled up a subs bench with David to find out more...

"I was on a shopping trip and looking through some books when I noticed that there was one about roundabouts - I thought if people are interested in that then why not football dugouts?" explains David who has followed the fortunes of Eastbourne Borough for the best part of 15 years.

"I emailed the publishers and they agreed that there may be a market for this type of book, but they wanted to make sure that there was a wide geographical range. I suppose the book will appeal to two markets - the die-hard football supporters and also the more eccentric side of society looking for an inexpensive Christmas gift."

But why dugouts? "It's really an extension of my website, pyramidpassion.co.uk. I started taking photographs about six years ago and sometimes, at a ground, there are no distinguishing factors other than the dugouts. Variations in grounds are dying out due to stricter ground regulations but you can still find some anomalies - grounds with three dugouts or dugouts on opposite sides of the pitch."

Despite the vast collection David had gathered, he describes the six-month period that the publishers wanted the book collated within as "a rush". On his travels, the intrepid non-league fan took in venues as far north as County

Sandwiched in-between the World Cup revelations of Gerrard, Ferdinand and Lampard on the shelves of your local bookstore is David Bauckham's *Dugouts* - Granted, not the most fashionable thing to write about but David's book has caused a media frenzy with the likes of the Daily Telegraph and Sky Sports all wanting a piece of Dugout action.

Durham, and way out west in Cornwall as well as the southeast.

"I had to fit in my travels around watching Eastbourne home and away and I also had to take time off of work. To a certain extent you are relying on good weather so that you can get decent photographs."

With such a tight schedule, there must have been some problems?

"Sometimes I made a special trip to a ground, whereas on other occasions it was purely pot-luck. I had to go to Lyme Regis twice - when I went originally the sun was in completely the wrong position, so I went back the next day and mounted a set of steps on the middle of the pitch so that I could get a better view. I think those watching me thought I was mad!"

Dugouts also features two big names at the start of the book: "The publishers wanted a recognisable name on the front to help sales and managed to get Alan Curbishley to write the foreword. It would have been nice to get Stuart Pearce involved as well because of his links to non-League football with Wealdstone and I would also have liked Gary Lineker to do a piece, because Aylestone Park, whose dugout features in the book, was where he started out."

Quite apart from the managerial aspect, David was delighted that renowned author, Simon Inglis, put pen to paper for an introductory piece opposite Curbishley: "I really admire Simon's work and he had written a good review of a book I wrote on Sussex County League football, so I was pleased

to get him to write a second foreword. It was great to include his thoughts."

Far from the expected derision after writing a book on such an eccentric subject, David has been inundated with requests for his time, and reviews have appeared in all outlets, from the Mail on Sunday to Groundtastic magazine. But one piece of interest trumps them all: "A German magazine, 11 Freunde, has approached me, and they want to do an

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eight-page, full-colour feature on the book!"

'Dugouts' is available now from all good bookshops and through online retailers priced £7.99. You can find out more about David Bauckham and his photography at his website: pyramidpassion.co.uk.

