



Introduction...

Dear Fan,

We have developed a unique opportunity for you, as a fan of your club, to write your account from your own perspective.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to tell the world, your friends and your family about your club – direct from your own experience, memories and above all: from your very own voice into high quality print.

Our Fans' View section of Club Books has been sculptured to give the every day ordinary fans of clubs from around the globe this great chance to be the writer for once; rather than the reader.

Sure, just about anyone with an internet connection can blog about their club or even take part in forums to discuss the vast assortment of subjects connected to their club but very few can say they have actually had their stories published – until now!

Our Fans' View club books promises to be unique and personalized to you, as a fan of your club, and our aim is to give you the chance to stamp your words in print and in return, give the reader a real fans' eye view of your club.

This opportunity is open to all fans of your club, regardless of your writing abilities. We have listed a few tips further on in this draft that will be a great source of help and reassurance.

Every fan has a story to tell. Whether it be in pubs, on the train on the way to a match or even at work; all fans have something to say about their club. You now have this great chance to tell your story on another platform...

Remember, it's *your club, your story, your book.*

The editing team at Club Books



Here's what we require from you...

- Submit your story with a word count of between approximately 350-500 words. Longer word counts will certainly be considered.
- All submissions must be sent by attachment in a simple Word.doc file or in the body of an email. Send to mail@club-books.co.uk
- Stories must be genuine and written solely from your experience and perspective.
- All submissions will be considered and subsequently selected, if suitable.

Here's what we do for you...

- We will publish your stories in fine quality printed paperback.
- We will market the book to a worldwide audience on sites like Amazon etc.
- You – as a contributor – will be able to purchase your own books at discounted prices.
- Fans will be able to purchase the book direct from our website.

Your details...

When sending your submissions please ensure you include the following:

Your Club:
Full name:
Town/City:
E-mail:

Note* Only your name and possibly your town will be published at the end of your book contribution (paragraph, chapter etc).

Writing ideas...

Everybody can write a story via their own experience and that experience, like any other life experience, can be about supporting your club.

Everybody who supports a club can recall a particular moment from their first European night as a youngster, the day your club won a league or cup title or the disappointment you felt when your club lost an important match or worse: got relegated.

Our Fans' View package is to encourage fans to detail a particular time or event that your club was involved in. Below are some tips on what to write about...

Your first match:

Most of us remember the very first time we were taken by our dads and uncles to a match. Mostly, these stories come from a childhood. The beauty about looking back these days is the internet can help you select proper dates; although times and dates are not necessary, they do add a little bit more tangible information to your club's event. Example, a Rangers fan remembers the night his club won the Cup Winners' Cup when the club defeated Moscow Dynamo. He can recall every detail from watching it on tv but he can't tell you the date. All this writer has to do is do a Google search where he or she will find reliable sources to choose from. If an event was important then most likely all searches will return the exact same date.

Your first experience:

Even if you didn't as yet attend your first match, you might have watched your club on tv. You could describe how you fell in love with your club from that particular moment. It could also be when you were young you would watch your big brother leaving the house to go watch your club in action.

Going to games:

Do you remember that feeling growing up when your dad would wrap your club's scarf around you, get you all snuggled into a big warm jacket and on leaving the house you would walk to the bus stop all proud to be mixing with all the other fans? There are many great childhood moments that you could reflect on that would make a great insertion into the book.

The stadiums:

The atmosphere, the banter, the singing – surely you remember and you most likely took part in all three. In a 90-minute game you might remember something that happened inside the stadium that you won't forget. Do you remember the character who used to sell macaroon bars? Well, there's a start.

Trips away:

Away games were always special. You can tell the world about it all from the train journey, supporters' bus or even the ride in the car with other fans. Perhaps your club was fortunate enough to play in the magical European nights and you took in your club's match abroad.

Other ideas could fall into these categories: favourite game, most memorable goal, best player who you think ever played for your club etc.

Writing tips...

Be original:

We're looking for original content. All submissions must be originally-written, from your own experience and perspective.

Be creative:

Your words are going to be in a book that will be stored for many, many years. It is always a good idea to be as creative as possible. We don't expect all fans to write like a reporter but try to describe in writing in the exact same way as you would tell the story verbally.

Spelling & grammar:

Don't worry about the finer things like spelling and grammar too much as we do carry out some editing work prior to printing but please do make an effort to present us with as best you can submit to us because it will make life easier for us and your book will be printed quicker.

Factually correct:

We have no doubt that when you love your club you will know more about your club than anyone else but please do bear the great need to present facts when submitting information. If you are struggling to recall one of your club's greatest-ever memories and you were there but you need refreshed then you can always do a You Tube search for that particular club event (cup final, for example).

What we cannot accept:

We want to make your club's book a memorable experience for all concerned but we do have to stay well within publishing and moral guidelines. If you have strong views about a referee who may have caused your club points or even relegation then you do have the right to an opinion but you cannot use names that may be hurtful, libel or slanderous towards that referee. We want to make your book a special book but please acknowledge that we cannot accept any contributions that we may feel not acceptable for publication.

Images:

In many occasions we do publish photographs that we believe will enhance a book publication. If you wish to contribute your story and you have any photographs that you think fits the criteria and compliments your text contribution then we would love to see what you have. Please be aware that any photographs sent for possible submission must be owned by you or you have the permission to use such photographs. In both occasions we will require a permission note.

Note* The best photos are ones where you or your child has had a snapshot taken with a famous player from your club (past or present) and that photo was taken by you or someone you know. In other words, we are looking for privately taken photos.

An example of a fans' story from a Glasgow Rangers fan:

The Nou Camp stadium, home of Barcelona, opened its gates to a mass of red, white and blue. I honestly haven't seen anything quite like it and even to this very day, I still haven't seen anything so magical and surreal as that evening in 1972.

Union Jacks draped over the tiers of the superb stadium, the noise was exhilarating and the feeling of being part of what we now call a true phenomenal moment in the club's history was something no-one could quite describe.

Our opponents were no mugs. The Russians were superb athletes and technically were well equipped. We all knew this was going to be a tough game. Right from kick off you could see that Moscow Dynamo were really up for this one. John Greig was quick to put his stamp on the game by committing a foul – as if to show the Russian forward line that they were indeed in for a real game themselves that night.

I don't actually remember what the betting situation was that night because Moscow Dynamo were a decent side and who could give any opposition a run for their money. We had really good players of our own and in some way it's best you don't know that much about your opposition because you really have to be fully focused on your own game.

I think it was Dave Smith's long pass from inside our own half that put Colin Stein through on goal and in typical Stein fashion he only really needed one touch and that was us in front.

If I was ecstatic at the first goal I think that feeling more than doubled when wee Willie Johnstone rose in the box to beat the tall Russian defenders to head us two goals in front. Never in my widest dreams did I think we would go two up against a very well-drilled Russian outfit. 2-0 at half-time was a terrific score line but I really wished it to be full-time.

Big Peter McCloy's long kick from goal created a little bit of a fallibility between two Dynamo defenders which left wee Willie Johnstone to cash in to score his second goal of the night and more importantly: put us 3-0 up. The fans were wanting more goals and quite rightly so but if the referee had blown for full-time then we would all be happy with that score. I mean, it was a big European night and to be three up against an accomplished unit was absolutely something else.

Fair play to the Russians, they didn't waver or give in. In fact, they scored twice to make it 3-2 and the longest time I've ever spent was waiting on the referee to blow the full-time whistle.

We triumphed that night in Barcelona and to me, this was my club's greatest-ever achievement and memory.

An example of a fans' story from a Glasgow Celtic fan:

There are many moments in my club's history that I can fully remember either as a child or growing up as a young teenager to man. There are also memories that stick in my head from what my late grandfather told me about the Celtic greats before my time; in fact – well long before my time and it really is difficult to say what is the absolute greatest stick out but as many Celtic fans would say: the time when we won the European Cup in 1967. No doubt many other fans will write about this great occasion but for me, personally, it has to be that awesome win against a team that must surely have been clear favourites. I don't know if anyone gave us a chance against the mighty Inter Milan.

A few of my family and neighbours were at the game but I was a bit too young to travel with them. I remember the cars streaming down the street with green and white scarves all draping the door handles, mirrors and no doubt even the window wipers. It looked more like a parade but as I got older, I learned with great appreciation that those cars were all heading towards Portugal. I wonder how many – if any – had passed an M.O.T.

There must have been about eight of us all crammed onto one couch to watch the game. My brother and I, my uncles and a few neighbours all squeezed tightly to watch the most remarkable game in my lifetime.

No need to remind anyone what a strong team Inter Milan were. They were trophy winners with high class international players who could destroy anybody at will. I remember my uncle calming us all down after Inter went ahead. He said, "No fear, son, this will make us play that much harder," and we did. The pace of the game, the movement from Celtic and the level of skill would make even the neutral supporter stand back in awe. It was breathtaking. I am glad that I was born just at the right time and at the right age to appreciate how football should be played. It was a lesson, that's for sure and it made me and my wee pals in the street go out and try to emulate our heroes.

I don't need to remind anyone about the history we created but I would like to point out that the great Glasgow Celtic had developed a style of play that was years ahead of its time. The players we had were not big money buys or foreign recruits; in fact quite the contrary because the Lisbon Lions could boast a European Cup winning side that all lived within a relatively short distance from Parkhead.

I've heard on so many occasions the debate about who is the greatest team ever. Is it the Brazilians of the 1970 World Cup? The great Real Madrid team that won a handful of European Cups or even the great teams that didn't win anything like the Hungarians or the Brazil side of 1982. For me, it was the Celtic side that beat Inter Milan. We matched any of the aforementioned greats with skill, speed and all-round ability but you have to take into account how small a city we are, how local the Lisbon Lions were and the achievement they made that May night in 1967 but above all: we set the tone and raised the bar that other British teams would soon follow. We were the first, we were the pioneers and we certainly were the greatest.