



## Life at the Top

**Mark Hodgkinson**

*Queen Anne Press £7.99*

THE HEROES OF YESTERYEAR WERE loyal, enigmatic, successful and, so legend has it, took their club and their sport more seriously than both life and death. Man United flaunted Busby. And Liverpool boasted Shankly. More contemporary heroes offer more unconventional values. Take Barnsley's Danny Wilson; at the faintest flicker of failure and the imminent publication of a book proclaiming his legendary managerial traits, he legs it back to Hillsborough.

*Life at the Top* is derived from a weekly column on the Tykes in *The Times* during Barnsley's year up in football's nosebleed zone. Written in diary form, the book attempts to capture the emotions of a town which had to re-read for its dictionaries to verify the true meaning of the word 'mess' after Barnsley finally crossed the elusive threshold to Premier League stardom - 110 years in.

Featuring interviews with players, directors and fans, the book encapsulates the fervour created amongst Barnsley's passionate football community with a torrent of metaphors and a cosy summary of the club's flirtation with the big time; so long as you're not a *Times* regular reader, well worth the £8.



**Peter Sanderson**