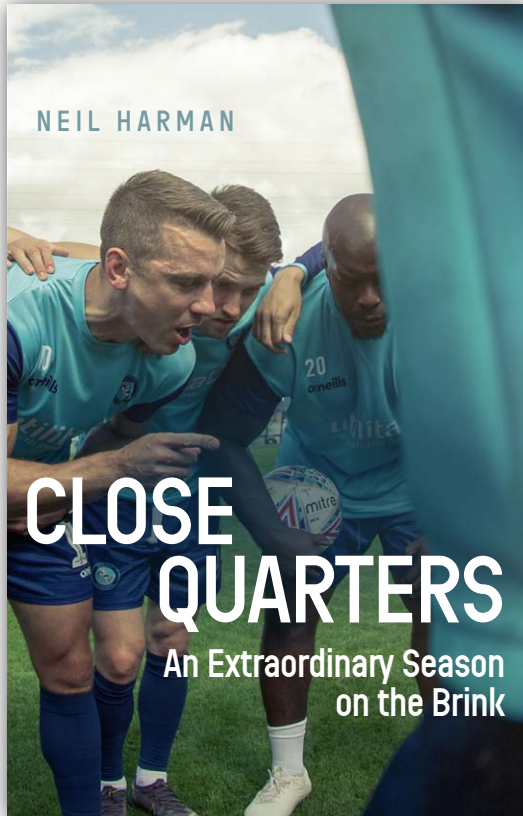




Title information



Close Quarters

An Extraordinary Season on the Brink

By Neil Harman

Key features

- Tale of sporting pride and hope following a small football team's quest for promotion to the Championship – will resonate with supporters of 'underdog' sides everywhere
- Brutally honest and powerful player stories from the men who wear the shirt, explaining what it means to them
- Author Neil Harman gained unique access to the players and manager, and includes behind-the-scenes photography
- Harman was *Daily Mail* chief football writer in the 1990s and has reported from grass roots to World Cup level
- Reveals what prompted a 70-year-old US lawyer to buy an English football club and how his money saved them
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

Description

Close Quarters is the inspirational, against the odds story of Wycombe Wanderers, the poorest club in League One, and how it shapes into a side that sustains a nine-month challenge for promotion before the global pandemic stops the team in its tracks. When the season restarts, Wycombe finds itself in the play-offs behind closed doors, an unprecedented opportunity through unprecedented turmoil. Led by the longest-serving boss in professional football, the charismatic Gareth Ainsworth, this becomes an astonishing campaign, witnessed up close by award-winning sportswriter Neil Harman thanks to his special access. Harman gets to the heart of the team, joins them in the dressing room, on the coach, in the medical room and in team meetings to chart this unparalleled challenge. He gets the inside story of Ainsworth's rise from a working-class upbringing on the back streets of Blackburn, through a rumbustious playing career, to a one-club manager moulding Wycombe while dealing with an American takeover that could make the difference between the club's life and death.

Details

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