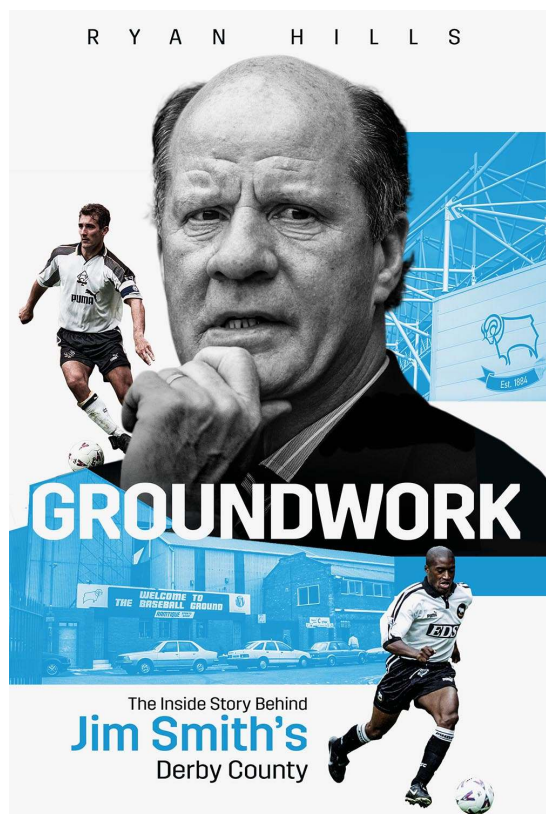




## Title information



### Groundwork

The Story Behind Jim Smith's Derby County

By Ryan Hills

### Key features

- Comprehensive insight into one of the best-loved Derby County sides of recent times, as revealed by those at the heart of it
- Exclusive insights and memories from cherished stars of the time including Igor Stimac, Steve McClaren and Paulo Wanchope
- A reflection on how Jim Smith and McClaren were able not only to transform a football club, but play a part in progressing the sport as a whole
- Tales of the legendary Jim Smith, featuring cigars, Rioja and a fair few kisses
- Reflections from those who played a major part off the field in transforming Derby County into a side that would threaten to reach European competition
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

### Description

When Jim Smith took charge of Derby County in the summer of 1995, he joined a club needing to balance the books after several seasons of failing to reach the Premier League. Little was expected of him. Yet alongside Steve McClaren, Smith oversaw a transformation that took Derby to a new home, a new division and to the brink of European competition for the first time since the days of Dave Mackay. Smith built a side capable of matching the very best in English football, amassing an array of international talent almost never before seen in the British game, alongside hugely impressive home-grown players. This is the story of Jim Smith's Derby County, told with the exclusive insights of Smith's players, coaching staff, friends and supporters. Rams legends including Igor Stimac, Stefano Eranio and Steve McClaren speak in depth on what made that Derby County side, while those closest to Jim reveal what the legendary man-manager was like to deal with, both in and out of football.

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