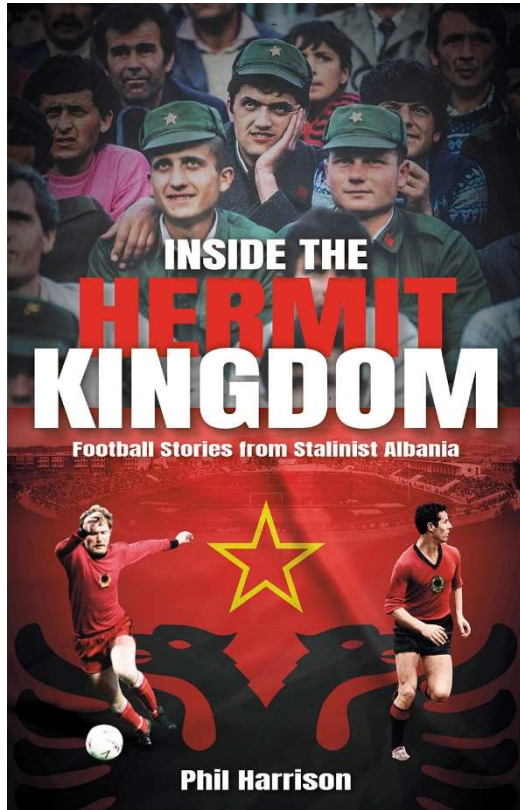




## Title information



### Inside the Hermit Kingdom

Football Stories from Stalinist Albania

By Phil Harrison

#### Key features

- Unique and immersive story, rich in detail, and first of its kind to look at the history of Albanian football
- First book in the English language to explore this important and intriguing subject
- Appeals to two different markets: football fans and history enthusiasts, especially those with an interest in the Cold War
- Author is an expert in the field of Cold War football; an authoritative voice of the *Fussball Geeks* podcast, he's also an expert on Albanian and East German football
- Extensive outreach into the Albanian community planned
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

#### Description

*Inside the Hermit Kingdom* charts the history of Albanian football from 1945 to 1991, when the country was ruled by modern Europe's most brutal and oppressive regime. The book features a chronology of Albanian football history interspersed with iconic games that shaped the nation's favourite sport. It details the matchday experience in Stalinist Albania, tells the story of a league footballer during the regime years and charts the growth of street football in Hoxhaist Tirana. You'll read about the demise of 'The Party' and Stalinism in Albania and the effects their disintegration had on football, peering beyond 1991 into a future riddled with conflict, uncertainty and, oddly, hope. The era is brought to life by the accounts of Albanians who lived through it, which capture the importance of football to a populace starved of any other source of communal enjoyment. The otherworldliness and innate cruelty of the Stalinist regime provide a terrifying backdrop to their tales.

#### Details

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